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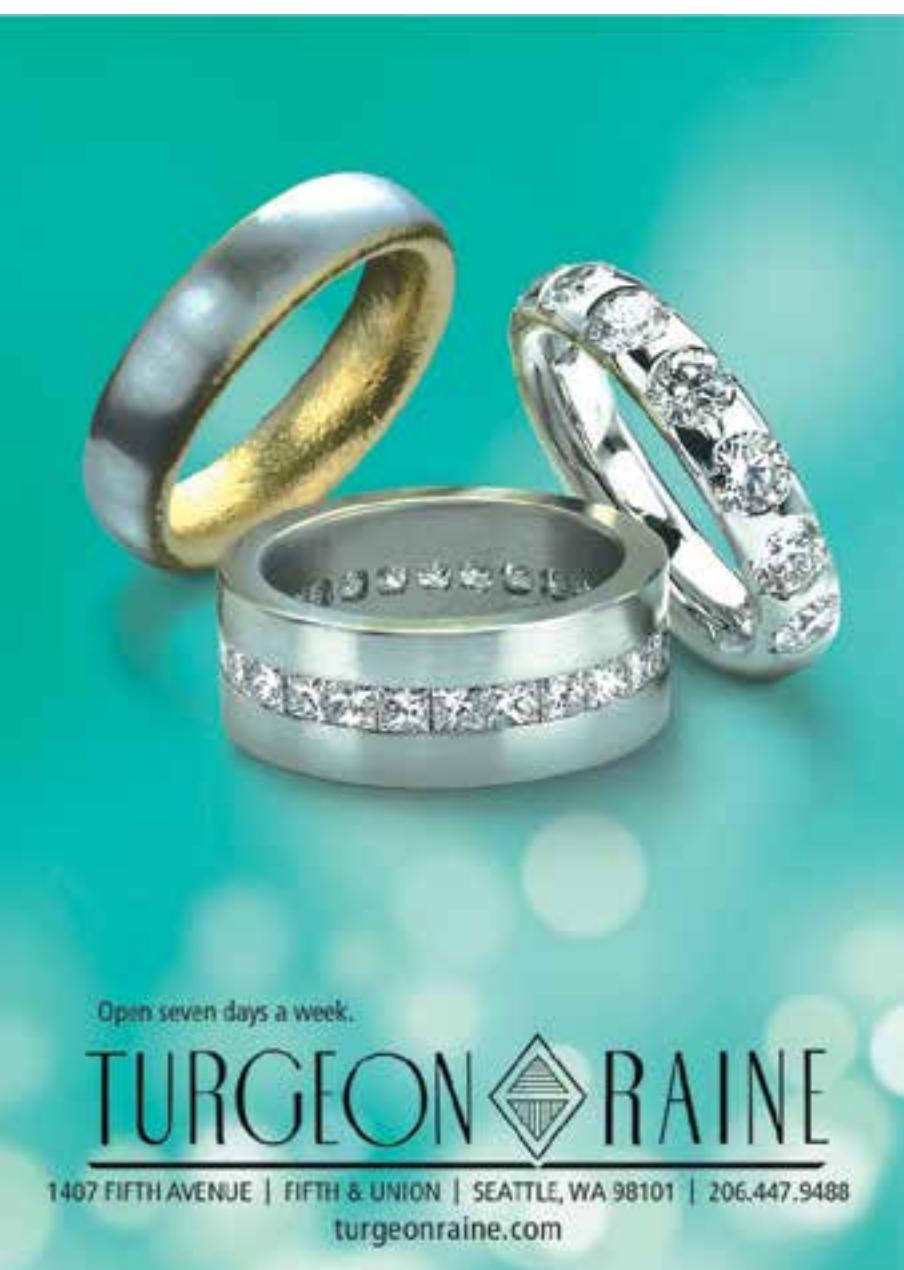
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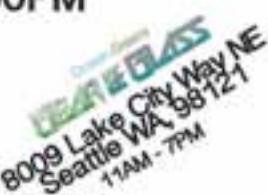
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WE SAW YOU

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THE STRANGER

SCENE OF THE FALL Note the puddle up ahead and the wooden slats on the right.

LARGE MAN FALLS HILARIOUSLY AND EMBARRASSINGLY OUTSIDE OF CAFE SOLSTICE

You were taller than anyone else in the coffee shop, wearing rugged boots and a ball cap, and after you walked out of Cafe Solstice on Capitol Hill with a 16-ounce Americano, no cream, because that's the kind of rugged guy you are, you crossed 10th Avenue to the sidewalk on the east side of the street and started walking south, toward Cal Anderson Park. But soon you encountered a puddle it would be hard to step

through without getting your boots and pants wet, so you opted to change course and walk back across the street, by way of a pathway through the landscaping. There was a pathway right there: Those wooden slats. The moment you stepped onto these wooden slats, you fell. Hard. You'd think wooden slats would grip a pair of rugged boots, which is probably why you stepped onto them so casually, but anyone who knows the neighborhood knows that those wooden slats, when wet, are slippery as fuck. You must have been somewhere around six-foot-five; the bigger one is, the harder one falls. Your coffee went everywhere—you hadn't even taken your first sip yet, and already all of it was launched into the air. The lid went flying. The coffee sank into the wet soil. Your hands broke your fall. You got up, dazed, in disbelief, looking down at your hands, at the ground and rocks steaming with coffee, and collected your litter (good for you), and your humiliation (we've all been there), and your sadness (just guessing here based on the look on your face), and continued on your walk, either too embarrassed or too out of time to go back to the coffee shop and get another one.

HOT DATE WITH RAW FISH

You were a blond woman at the sushi bar, sitting next to another woman, whose hair was a slightly darker shade of blond. You appeared to be a good match. At first glance, you were looking into her eyes, smiling, and slowly stroking her back. At second glance, a couple of minutes later, you were full-on making out with her. The mediocre sushi was not cramping your style.

GUY ON A BUS IN GREEN LAKE

On a chilly evening, you were riding on the northbound 48 bus toward Greenwood. When the bus pulled over at Green Lake to let some passengers off, the rear doors got stuck and wouldn't close again. The bus driver, an elderly black man, came to the rear of the bus to try to fix the problem. You, a middle-aged white man with a beard, grew irate in the most dickish way possible. As the driver opened a compartment and tried to fix the doors, you complained loudly, "Fuck, man! I'm going to miss my bus!" Everyone else sat

I, ANONYMOUS

To submit an unsigned confession or accusation, send an e-mail to ianonymous@thestranger.com. Please remember to change the names of the innocent and guilty.



QUIT YOUR BITCHIN'

Dear Anonymous: You are the embodiment of everything that sucks about the PNW. Your inability to deal with situations in the moment and subsequent need to then harp about them behind a wall of anonymity in the only fucking newspaper Seattle has is an embarrassment. You are trying to escape the blame for your own inability to act in the moment—and every week, without fail, it's a fucking cringe fest. Grow the fuck up. If you don't like someone, or someone on the bus is talking on their cell phone, or your shitty roommate didn't clean the house bong when it was their week, FUCKING TELL THEM AND LEAVE US OUT OF IT.

—Anonymous

STEVEN WASSERMAN

Open Letter:

Who Do I Have to Fuck to See a Donald Trump + Sarah Palin Porn Parody Already?

by Ryann C. Crest

Dear Pornography,

I can't help wondering who is minding the store these days. By my count, it's been more than a week since rumors began circulating that Donald Trump was considering Sarah Palin as a possible running mate. When I saw those headlines, I had only one thought. I immediately hit every torrent aggregator I could think of—and nothing. Same thing with Google—no dice. It led me to ask a very basic question: Who do I have to fuck to see a Donald Trump + Sarah Palin porn parody already?

I was and am a huge fan of the *Nailin' Palin* series from the 2008 election cycle, so don't insult my intelligence with your self-justifying bullshit like, "Oh, these scenes don't just shoot themselves, blah blah blah." I DON'T COME TO PORNOGRAPHY FOR EXCUSES. What do you need exactly? A wig, a pair of glasses—boom. Next?

Porn, you've made incredible strides in my lifetime. When I was a kid, I didn't even know what fisting was, and now I have more than 19 gigs of *There's a Fist Time for Everything* on my hard drive. I only mention this so you know how grateful I am as a general rule, and how much I appreciate all the joy you bring to the world.

Having said that, I just googled "Trump Palin Porn" again, and you know what I got? A fucking newspaper editorial. DO I LOOK LIKE I WANT TO READ A NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL? No, I don't. I look like someone who wants to see actors who slightly resemble Donald Trump and Sarah Palin fucking each other and/or themselves, and I want it yesterday. Because I am someone like that, and I refuse to be bullied or ashamed.

Time's a wasting. Chop-chop.

Best,
Ryann



patiently and let the driver do his thing. A few minutes later, the doors closed. "Can we fucking go nowwww?" you said loudly, throwing your hands up. The driver ignored you. The doors evidently weren't closed tightly enough for the bus to begin safely moving again. You were still on the bus, still whining like a petulant child, when we got off and walked the rest of the way.

YOU ARE ON INDIGENOUS LAND

You sat in the chair at CORE Gallery, waiting for Nahaan, the artist in residence, to wipe the table clean. Nervous laughter bubbled out of you like steam from a boiling teapot. It was your first tattoo. You decided on two designs he gave you; both of them having to do with saltwater, an element important to your family and your Yucateco ancestors. He prepared the needle and thread. "Does it hurt?" your friend (a good friend) asked. Nahaan said the skin-stitching, a traditional technique, would feel like pinching. He shaved some light fuzz off your wrist and forearm. If a person whines, he said, it's a reflection not on you but on your whole clan—and who wants to whine when the regalia of your people is being stitched on? "No pressure," your friend said, and you laughed. You didn't whine once.

BALLARD SHOUTER

You had your hood pulled low over your

eyes as you crossed 17th Avenue near Market Street in Ballard around 9:30 on a rainy Thursday night. You shouted—not sang—to no one in particular, "Baby, I'm a firework!"

CAPITOL HILL TIME MACHINE

Friday night, we pushed through the Pike-Pine hordes, up the rickety wooden stairs of one of the last not-yet-condofied buildings in the neighborhood, the building where the art space the Factory is located, and entered what felt like a time machine. There, in a small room with funny Jackie Collins-related art on the wall, we stood in back and watched a ramshackle roomful of young, beautiful, broke weirdos listened raptly to a brilliant show by Posse, who sounded like the stepchildren of Smog and Galaxie 500, but also new, vital, dreamy. The sound mix was loud enough to drown out the yahoos swarming outside, but not so loud that you couldn't still swoon. If you squinted your eyes just so, you could believe you had stepped through a time door, a small relic of what Capitol Hill used to feel like every night, for so many years. We thought of that line from *Fear and Loathing*, "With the right kind of eyes you can almost see the high-water mark—that place where the wave finally broke and rolled back," and felt grateful, glad to be in Seattle, glad to be alive. ■



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STEPHAN HOHENHANNER

All the Natural (and Man-Made) Disasters You Should Worry About

BY SYDNEY BROWNSTONE

Long before Seattle had skyscrapers, it was carved by glaciers, seeded with wild salmon runs, and populated by indigenous peoples. Then, in a matter of centuries, white settlers and gold-seekers flooded the area, the post-war boom paved over it, and the tech industry triggered a construction boom.

In many ways, the city is still reeling from its own boom-bust-boom history, which makes it profoundly vulnerable to its many unresolved social and environmental flaws. They surround us, waiting for just the right moment to expose the contradictions the city was built on.

Below are a bunch of disasters—ongoing or imminent—to occupy your Seattle nightmares:



The Megaquake

The Pacific Northwest is not seismically stable. What the *New Yorker* affectionately termed the “Really Big One” last year is the probability of a magnitude 8-or-greater earthquake rumbling from the Cascadia subduction zone, the fault where one tectonic plate is slipping under the Northwest coast. Some scientists have put the odds of the Really Big One rocking the

fault line's northern segment (which includes Seattle) at a 10 to 15 percent chance over the next 50 years.

With that kind of coastal quake, a tsunami is all but certain—though the Olympic Peninsula will bear most of the tsunami's brunt. “Almost half the tall buildings in Seattle, Portland and Vancouver BC were built before anyone knew we could get this kind of megquake in the Northwest,” Sandi Doughton, the *Seattle Times*' science reporter, told readers in a Reddit AMA last year. “It wouldn't surprise anyone if some of those older buildings collapsed in a major quake.”

The Alaskan Way Viaduct

Speaking of earthquakes, welcome to the great city of Seattle, where urban planners thought it would be a grand idea to build a two-tiered, elevated highway on the waterfront. The Alaskan Way Viaduct should never have been built in the first place, but now it's been standing well past its welcome. The

viaduct has been sinking ever since the 2001 Nisqually earthquake, the likes of which Seattle has an 80 percent chance of experiencing again in the next 50 years. If that happens, experts predict the viaduct will sway violently before sandwiching. Unfortunately, officials came up with another grand idea—to replace the viaduct with a giant tunnel for cars directly

Don't worry about tsunamis—the Olympic Peninsula will bear most of any tsunami's brunt.

underneath it, but this plan has been delayed for two years because the world's biggest tunnel boring machine broke down not long after it first started drilling. (It recently started back up again, but had to stop due to a massive sinkhole.)

The Duwamish River

Do you like fish? Great! Never, ever, EVER go fishing in the Duwamish River, a waterway

that sustained the Duwamish people for thousands of years. Within a century, the Duwamish River became so polluted by major industries that it's been declared a Superfund site, one of the most toxic places in the United States. Not only is the waterway loaded with carcinogens and other dangerous chemicals, but people who live near it suffer from some of the highest rates of lung cancer, asthma, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, and the shortest life expectancies in the city. Not all of this is attributable to the river's pollution—the environmental injustices that target low-income and minority communities are wide-ranging and complex—but it plays a role.

Oil Trains

If you've ever attended a football game at CenturyLink Field, you may have noticed the rattle of long trains rolling by. Several times per week, these aging cars transport light crude oil cut with methane, butane, ethane, or propane to West Coast refineries. You know what locals call those trains? “Bomb trains.” That's because they have the potential to explode, creating fireballs that can reach as high as a football field is long. The US Department of Transportation predicts that an average of 10 oil trains will derail annually over the next 20 years, and that a derailment in a densely populated area could kill as many as 200 people. (A train carrying Bakken crude oil derailed in 2014 underneath the Magnolia Bridge, but thankfully didn't leak or explode.) Activists have tried various methods to stop these trains from rolling through Seattle, or at least demand that the city and state better ►



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► regulate them, but those efforts have been limited because the federal government oversees crude oil by rail transport.

Cars

Seattle drivers are nearly 41 percent more likely to get into a car crash than the average American, according to recent data from Allstate Insurance. We're in the worst 10 percent out of 200 US cities, which makes car accidents the leading cause of death for people between 5 and 24 years old. Seattle recently rolled out a program called "Vision Zero" that aims to eliminate traffic deaths through better street design, enforcement, and education, but car ownership has still grown in some of Seattle's most walkable neighborhoods.

Men

In 2015, Seattle experienced 22 homicides, 97

reported rapes, 1,447 robberies, 524 reported domestic-violence assaults, and 1,369 other assaults—the vast majority of which were committed by men. Based on the most recent data from 2011, women in Seattle make 73 cents on the average white man's dollar, four cents lower than the national average. The gap widens for women of color. For the first time since the '90s, the Seattle City Council has a woman majority, but most city employees are white and male; men also outnumber women in city government leadership roles. Similar statistics are reflected in the private sector: At Amazon, one of the city's largest employers, the general workforce is 63 percent male, the leadership 75 percent male. The city's distribution of societal power by race, class, and gender remains greatly unequal, perhaps ranking as the most enduring man-made disaster in Seattle's (and every American city's) history. ■

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District 6



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District 7



Tim Burgess
Position 8



Lorena González
Position 9

How to Avoid Being a Political Dummy

BY HEIDI GROOVER

Hey there, new-to-Seattle person. Welcome! Say, did you move here from a place where it was normal to not really follow politics? Well, that place is dead to you now.

Here in Seattle, we care about politics a lot—and that includes what's happening in local government. And you should get on board.

Why? Things get exciting around here. Seattle was among the first cities to pass a \$15 minimum wage. Washington legalized pot. (Seattle's city attorney, Pete Holmes, was one of the first people to buy legal weed, and former state senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles

has been known to bake brownies with it.) We were also the first city to pass a law giving Uber and Lyft drivers the right to unionize, and we drew global attention to Shell's plans to drill for oil in the Arctic. We've elected a socialist to the city council—twice.

Seattle is where some of the nation's most radical, progressive policies are being enacted, but it's also a place of contradictions. While people complain about rising housing costs, they simultaneously resist new housing development. (A factor in affordability is the availability of housing stock.) Also, while there is a lot of housing



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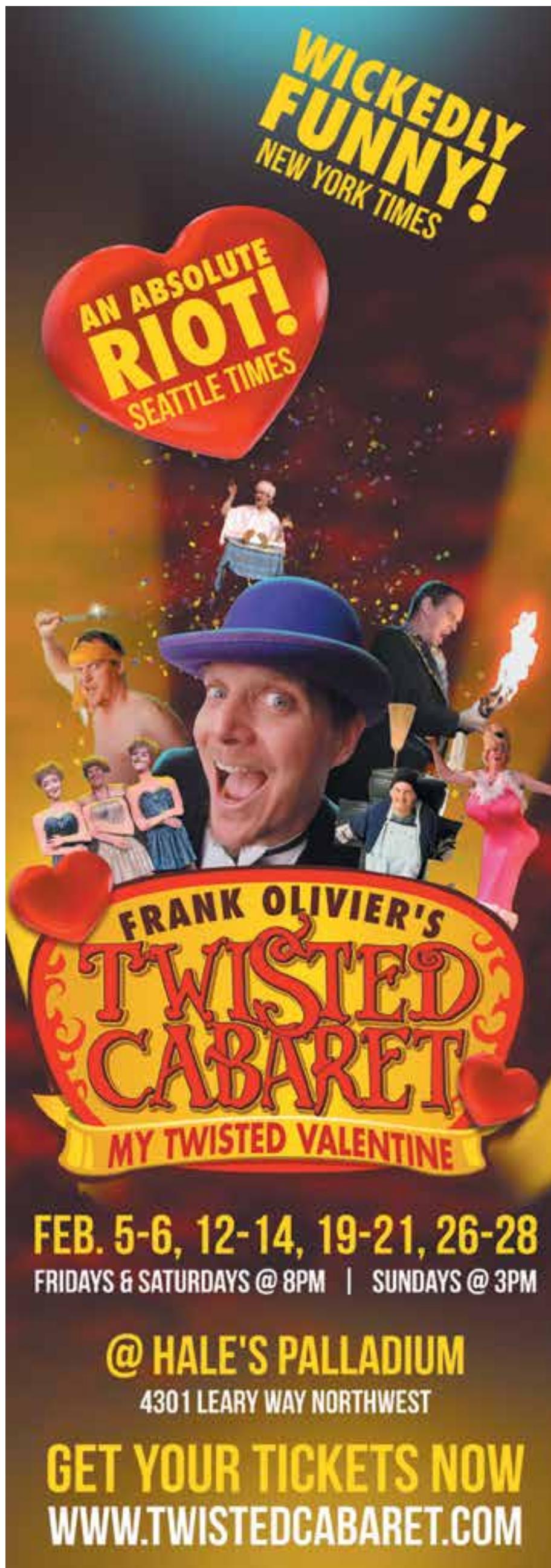
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►being built, the city also has a growing homeless population. President Obama hailed Seattle police chief Kathleen O'Toole for her leadership, yet the police department remains under a federal consent decree for its use of excessive force and discriminatory practices. New money is flowing into the city, but income inequality between whites and people of color continues to widen.

What can you do to help?

Understand the Political Landscape

While Seattle is very, *very* progressive compared to most places in Washington State and much of the rest of the country, that doesn't mean the left here is satisfied. Seattle's political landscape is now made up of establishment Democrats on one side and far-left activists on the other. Our newly elected city council is, on the whole, more progressive than before. Its left-most members are Kshama Sawant, Lisa Herbold, and Mike O'Brien. Our mayor, Ed Murray, best represents Seattle's political establishment: a solid Democrat who considers himself a pragmatist. Sometimes he does the right thing, and other times he acts like a giant spineless baby. Meanwhile, our state legislature is a complete disaster. Split-party control means that Republicans in the state senate are always blocking stuff that Democrats in the state house want to do (like pass new taxes on the wealthy), and vice versa.

Know the Important Issues

Have you noticed yet how much traffic here sucks? (It does.) We've got ferries, light rail, streetcars, buses, a monorail, and even water taxis, but it's not nearly enough to get people moving easily from one side of town to the other. Our light rail line goes only from downtown to the airport (although expansions to Capitol Hill and the University District will open this year). Our monorail is even more pathetic, covering only one mile in downtown. The South Lake Union Trolley (affectionately known as SLUT) also has limited coverage,

Sometimes
Mayor Ed Murray does
the right thing, other
times he acts like a
giant spineless baby.

although new lines opening soon will connect it to other neighborhoods. In short, there are too many cars and not enough buses, bikes, and light rail lines to make Seattle the ideal city it should be.

Another major issue: Washington doesn't have an income tax. This may sound great for your income, but it's terrible for the state. Our schools and mental-health care are criminally underfunded. Literally. The Washington Supreme Court held the state legislature in contempt in 2014 for failing to address its underfunding of schools. Lawmakers say they have a plan for fixing this, but won't actually take action until 2017.

One of the most pressing issues in this city is housing affordability, which has contributed to an increasing homeless population. During a homeless count last January, more than 2,800 people were living on the streets of Seattle. In November, the mayor and county executive declared that the region is in a state of emergency—the kind of declaration usually reserved for natural disasters—because of homelessness. Since then, Murray's administration has opened new shelters and tent encampments, and has announced plans for city-sanctioned parking lots for people living in vehicles. Unfortunately, many homeowners remain hostile to homeless people in their neighborhoods.

Rents, which have been skyrocketing in recent years, are finally beginning to stabilize. Yet with tens of thousands more people expected to move to the city in the next 20 years, we still need more development—especially affordable housing. In an effort to meet that demand, the city is looking at ways to increase density in certain parts of the city and require developers to set aside some units for people making below a certain income. Lots more about this process—and how you can get involved—at murray.seattle.gov/housing.

Take Action

There are two basic things you need to do. First: show up.

For Seattle-related issues, find the names and contact information for all nine city council members, and figure out who represents your part of the city, at seattle.gov/council. You can also find out when the council is holding meetings on the issues you care about. Their regular meetings are on Mondays at 2 p.m., and they hold others throughout the week. (You can also watch council meetings online or call in and listen.) If you want to contact the mayor, e-mail him at ed.murray@seattle.gov.

Another way to have your voice heard is to become active in your community. There are neighborhood groups all over the city; find one near where you live or work and attend their meetings. The list is at seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborhood-districts. The loudest contingent at community and council meetings is often one that holds a minority perspective, like being hostile to homeless people or new density. But if they're the only people who show up, they are the only voices the city council hears.

Second: vote. This will be a huge election year for a whole bunch of reasons that aren't named Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders. The entire Washington State House of Representatives—where Democrats hold the majority by only two votes—will be up for election, as will much of the Washington State Senate. Democratic governor Jay Inslee is running for reelection against Bill Bryant, a Republican who has a love affair with Shell's Arctic drilling fleet. This is not a year to sit out the election.

Another reason to vote: This fall, Seattle and its suburbs will vote on a massive light-rail package known as Sound Transit 3. Learn about ST3 and how to have a say in which projects get funded at soundtransit3.org. Voters in Seattle will also vote on a new housing levy, which could increase the amount of money the city has to build subsidized housing. Follow city council news for upcoming details on that. Then there are two statewide initiatives you'll likely see: One would create a carbon tax (more at carbonwa.org), and one would raise the minimum wage and create paid sick leave (look for signature gatherers working for Raise Up Washington).

Also, figure out which legislative district you live in (at app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder) in order to figure out who you get to vote for. Then look for a local branch of the Democrats (wa-democrats.org), Green Party (gp-wa.org), Socialist Alternative (socialistalternative.org), or Republicans ([ha-ha, just kidding](http://ha-ha.justkidding)) if you want to help campaign.

Obviously, none of this matters if you don't register to vote. If you're a US citizen, do that as soon as you can at myvote.wa.gov, or in person in downtown Seattle at 500 Fourth Avenue, Room 440, or in Renton at 919 Southwest Grady Way.

Finally, keep up with all of this by reading this, Seattle's only newspaper. You should also read our blog, slog.thestranger.com, where we write about this stuff every damn day, and bookmark other local politics sites like Publicola.com, Thecisforrank.com, and Crosscut.com. ■

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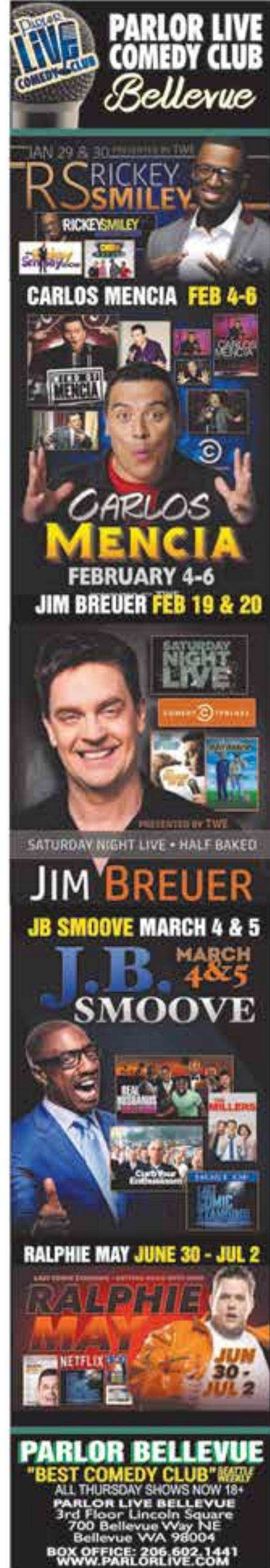


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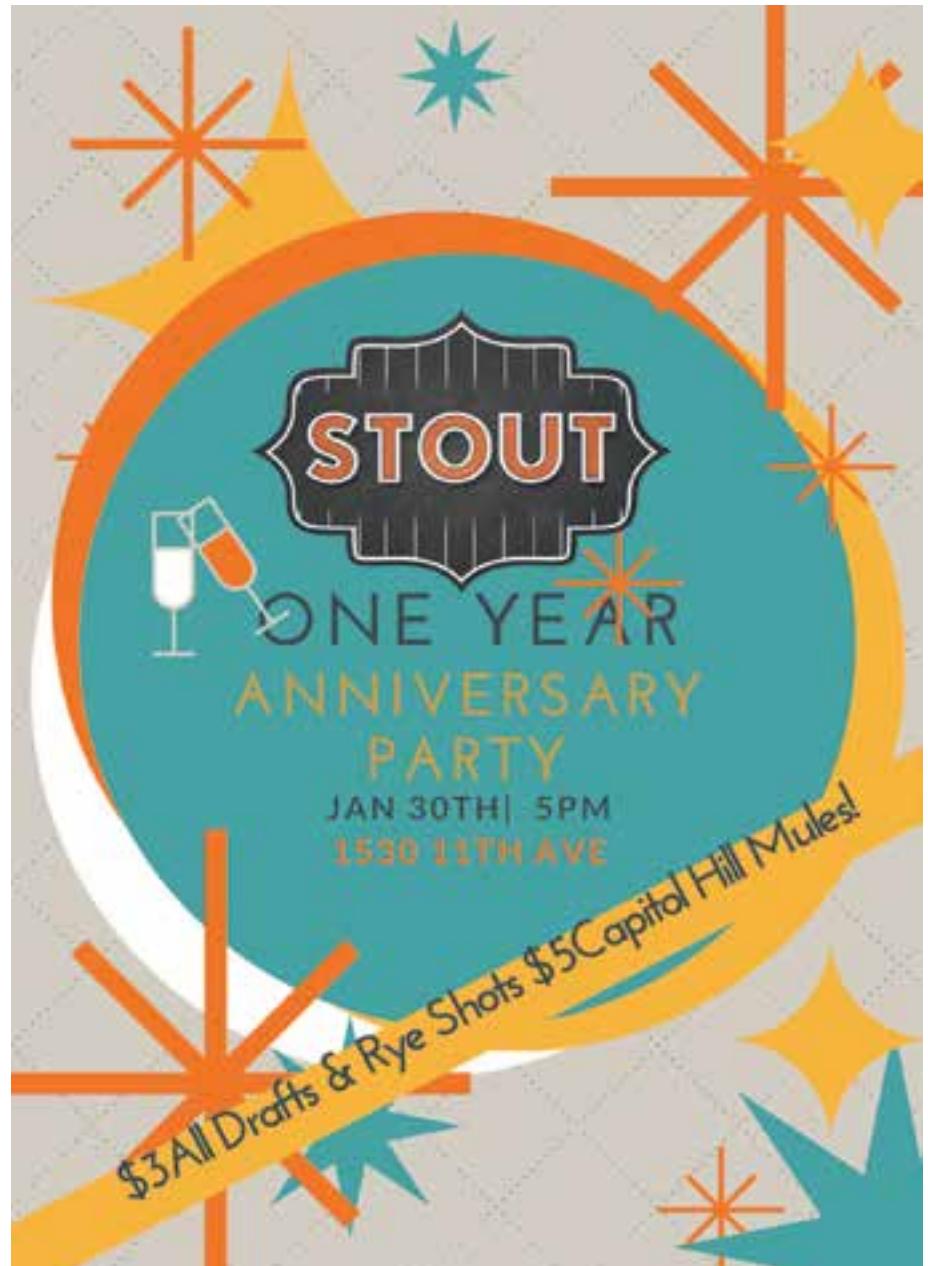
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Everything You Need to Know About Your Rights as a Renter in Seattle

BY KATHLEEN RICHARDS

If you're new to Seattle, chances are you're a renter. Renters occupy more than half of the housing units in this city. And many more are on the way—the city expects about 100,000 people to move here in the next 20 years. Although the city is in the middle of a housing construction boom, rents are continuing to steadily increase (the average one-bedroom apartment in Seattle costs \$1,592 a month, according to RentJungle.com).

This is one reason that Seattle is, unfortunately, not the friendliest place for renters. Rent control is illegal in Washington State, so landlords are free to raise the rent as much as they'd like. No surprise, housing affordability has been a central issue in the city, and the mayor commissioned a Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda to come up with a plan to create more affordable housing.

While we wait for that plan to be fully implemented, city officials say they're seeing more complaints about rent increases because of the recent growth spurt in Seattle. In addition, "many low-income tenants are requesting relocation assistance because they are being displaced by construction and development," said Wendy Shark, a spokesperson for the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections.

Steven Le at the Tenants Union of Washington State said he's also noticed a lot of folks trying to break their leases recently. "Under Washington State laws, if a tenant breaks their lease without consent of their landlord, the tenant is liable for rent up until the lease is over," he wrote in an e-mail.

Shark said the city tends to see similar complaints, usually related to the weather (water leaks and lack of sufficient heat), bugs, and plumbing or sanitation issues. All of which raises the question: What rights do tenants actually have and who should they call to complain if their landlord isn't treating them appropriately?

New to Town
The city expects 100,000 people to move here in the next 20 years.

Q: Can my landlord raise my rent willy-nilly?

Kind of. A landlord cannot change any aspect of a lease during your lease term unless you both agree to it. Landlords can raise the rent as much as they want as long as they give you proper notice and are not raising the rent to discriminate or retaliate against you. If your rent is going to go up 10 percent or more in a 12-month period, you're entitled to 60 days' notice.

Q: Can my landlord evict me whenever he or she wants?

In Seattle, a landlord can end a month-to-month lease only for one of the 18 reasons listed in the Just Cause Eviction Ordinance. Landlords must give written notice, usually at least 20 days before the end of a rent period, typically the end of the month. ■

Q: Is it legal for landlords to ask me any screening questions in the application process?

Landlords can use whatever screening criteria they want, as long as they aren't being discriminatory. If they ask a question of you, they must ask it of all their renters.

Q: How much can my landlord charge in screening or move-in costs? Is there any limit?

Landlords can charge prospective tenants only the actual cost of screening fees. Also, they must give you written notice regarding what the screening will entail and what information could result in the application being denied. Application and screening fees generally cost \$35 to \$75 per person. Landlords cannot profit from application fees.

Move-in fees, such as for cleaning, are also legal. However, they must be specifically designated as nonrefundable and cannot be considered deposits. (Under the law, deposits are refundable.) If your landlord charges you nonrefundable fees and does not provide you with a written rental agreement, the landlord must return those nonrefundable fees.

Q: What sort of complaints with my unit is my landlord liable for?

Landlords must exterminate insects, rodents, and other pests that are a menace to public health, safety, or welfare. They must also remove "any article, substance, or material imminently hazardous to the health, safety, or general welfare of the occupants or the public, or which may substantially contribute to or cause deterioration of the building to such an extent that it may become a threat to the health, safety, or general welfare of the occupants or the public," according to the Seattle Municipal Code.

Q: Whom do I complain to if I have a problem?

According to the Tenant Union's Steven Le, there is no one governing

body in Seattle that handles enforcement of landlord-tenant laws. Who you should contact depends on what type of housing you live in and what the nature of your complaint is. If you live in a city-subsidized unit, the Seattle Office of Housing will handle your complaints. If you feel you are the subject of discrimination, contact the Seattle Office for Civil Rights. For denials of accommodations for tenants with disabilities, contact the Fair Housing Center of Washington. The Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections handles inspections and recommendations for repairs.

"Tenants should contact the Tenants Union any time they're unsure about how to proceed with a landlord on just about any issue," said Le. "We take all questions as long it's about a residential property in Washington State"—with exemptions for hospitals, university dorms, jails, and mobile homes. For more information, go to tenantsunion.org. ■

Much of this information comes from the Tenants Union and the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections websites.



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WEED

Welcome to Seattle, Stoners!

Here's How to Avoid Getting Arrested and Enjoy Some Legal Weed

BY TOBIAS COUGHLIN-BOGUE

Now is a great time to be a pothead in the very, very green Emerald City. But it's not all dank nugz and edible delights. There are a few things you should know before you get stoned, turnt, lit, zooted, booted, or whatever it is that the kids are calling it these days.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

The basic rule is this: If you're 21 or older, with ID to prove it, you can buy up to an ounce of weed (or 16 ounces of edibles, 72 ounces of marijuana-infused liquid products, or 7 grams of concentrates or extracts) at any state-licensed retail outlet and smoke, vape, or consume it in the privacy of your own home. You can also take it with you on the state ferry system. You can be high in public as long as you don't get high in public. Perhaps most importantly, you can buy motherfucking weed lube!



THINGS YOU CAN'T DO

Currently, you cannot pass your friend a joint without breaking the law. You cannot drive with weed once the package it came in has been opened, even if it's been resealed or is locked in the glove box. (Trunk only!) So you can't roll through the hood smokin' an L—especially because you can't drive with more than five nanograms of THC per milliliter of blood in your system, unless you want a DUI.

Although you probably wouldn't want to anyway, you cannot take dope to federal buildings. You cannot smoke pot in public places. You definitely cannot light up at the bar, no matter how drunk you are or how good of an idea it sounds like. You cannot have marijuana delivered to you (although this may change).

If you're thinking of flying somewhere (even if you're going from Seattle to Spokane), leave your pot at home. Border crossings aren't allowed. You definitely can't mail it. There are rules in the works to allow companies like FedEx and UPS to contract with pot businesses, but those rules don't include the public, so don't send your dear old auntie a bag of infused brownies.

As a renter, you aren't guaranteed smoking privileges. If your landlord or tenant association allows smoking in your unit, you're probably fine. But otherwise, you could be evicted. (If you live in federally subsidized housing, you definitely can't smoke.) Thanks to a dunderheaded bit of recent legislation, you cannot even toke up in Seattle-area hotels that allow smoking.

Currently, you can't buy pot from a medical marijuana dispensary unless you've got a doctor's authorization, and you also can't grow pot without authorization.

Many of these rules, however, are subject to change pending legislation. In the meantime, a good rule to follow is "Don't be a jackass." Smoking a joint in the alley behind the bar probably won't get you hauled off to jail, but doing so in front of a group of schoolchildren might.

THINGS YOU SHOULD DO

Okay, now that you know where you can and can't get high, what should you do once you are high? Here are a few of my favorite activities:

Have a Canoe Picnic: The University of Washington's Waterfront Activities Center rents canoes and rowboats to the public. The first time I smoked pot with my mom was in one of those canoes, beneath the overpasses just south of Foster Island. (This is the same woman who had bought me a "promise stone" that I was to rub if I was ever tempted by the "green devil.") After blasting off, we rowed to the island, where we feasted on Triscuits, cheese, craft beer, and peanut-butter-filled pretzels. It was a blast.

Swim at the T-Dock: One of the best summertime activities is to visit the T-dock at night while stoned, ideally with a close friend or significant other. Then you should gaze out at the mess of lights reflecting off of Lake Washington, the majestic outcropping of trees that is Seward Park, and the amazing floating bridges that we all take for granted, and remember why you moved here: It's fucking gorgeous.

Play Video Games: I'm hesitant to even mention this, because I love that Georgetown Liquor Company is usually empty, but they have an amazing collection of vintage NES/SNES games. If you get stoned enough to think you have a snowball's chance in hell

What should you do once you are high? Here are a few of my favorite activities.

of beating Contra, this is the place to do it. (8-Bit Arcade Bar in Renton is another '80s gamers' paradise.)

If you desire a more modern experience, GameWorks offers \$10 unlimited play after 5 p.m. on Thursday nights. They've got an entire floor of racing games, every iteration of The House of the Dead, skee-ball, and a 30-foot-long panel of shoot-out games. Unlike at Georgetown Liquor Company, the beer at GameWorks ain't cheap, so you'd be wise to spend your savings on some good weed instead.

Ride Your Bike to Bainbridge: Looking for a view? Try a bike adventure to Bainbridge Island. The ferry trip offers majestic views on all sides, and you can soak up more natural beauty at Fay Bainbridge Park, which is a reasonable ride from the ferry dock. But the best part of the trip is the poutine at Harbour Public House. With a rotating selection of awesome craft beer, and three different preparations of poutine, it's basically a stoned bicyclist's godsend.

Go See Some Art: On the first Thursday of every month, art venues of all kinds fling open their doors to the public, offering



SWIM AT THE T-DOCK That guy is so high.

intriguing exhibitions, free admission, and boatloads of cheap-ass wine. Yes, please!

Visit the Zoo or Aquarium: The Woodland Park Zoo has lemurs. The Seattle Aquarium has sea otters. Need I say more?

AND, FINALLY, A WORD OF ADVICE FROM CITY ATTORNEY PETE HOLMES

Did you know that City Attorney Pete Holmes was one of the first legal pot customers in Washington State? He bought two bags—one for posterity and one for himself. A self-described "wonky lawyer," he's also a major champion of

legalization and is pushing several bills through our state legislature to sensibly reduce the length of that long list of "can't dos."

His words of advice to newcomers? "It's kind of like on Louis C.K., when people are complaining about their airline seats—you know, that they don't have enough legroom—and they forget the fact that they're in an airplane flying at 30,000 feet at 700 miles per hour. Where's the wonderment in that? I like the Louis C.K. response: 'Remember, this is an amazing privilege that is enjoyed by a very small percentage of the country. Don't screw it up for the rest of us.'"

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Meet Your Neighbors!



What Made a UX Designer, a Musician, a Refugee, and a Molecular Biologist Choose to Move to Seattle

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY KELLY O



Alison, User Experience Designer

Where did you move from?

Chicago—specifically the Logan Square neighborhood. More specifically, a neighborhood that I was a little scared to live in 13 years ago.

Why Seattle?

A job with Amazon. I'm sorry.

How do the rent prices and apartments compare?

I owned my house in Chicago, but I'd guesstimate that now I'm paying about \$500 *more* for 500 square feet *less*. More is less, right?

What do you miss from your hometown?

Car washes. The kind where you pay \$12 for six guys to descend on your car with toothbrushes and Q-tips while you wait in a lounge lit by a flickering fluorescent bulb and watch Univision. Yeah, I get that it basically rains nonstop here and there's no salt on the roads to eat a hole through your car, but I still like a clean dash and shiny tires.

What's the weirdest thing about Seattle so far?

People park facing both directions on both sides of the street, not just in the direction of traffic. What??! And there are intersections with absolutely no signage. What what??!

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Osman, Refugee

Where did you move from?

Kenya, where I was a refugee from Somalia. It is not a crime to be a refugee, I was forced to go live in Kenya with my family at the age of 4 years old. My life as a refugee there was very hard. In 1993, my family lived in Mombasa. At first, we had to live in tents.

Why Seattle?

I've been here since December. I'm living in a temporary place. I hope to get an education here. I hope to be a doctor someday because I want to help other people. I'd like to help people like the IFRC [International Federation of Red Cross] does in Kenya.

How do the rent prices and apartments compare?

I don't know yet, but when I send \$50 American to my mother in Africa, it's almost 4,000 in Kenyan money.

What do you miss from your hometown?

I miss my family—all my brothers and sisters, mother, and father.

What's the weirdest thing about Seattle so far?

The rain is so different than Africa. It is a challenge to walk in the rain. I also cannot find chamomile mint tea.



Cody, Musician

Where did you move from?

I moved from Oakland, California... been here two months.

Why Seattle?

I wanted to move because Oakland has changed a lot, and I was feeling disconnected and alienated. I did want to stay on the West Coast, so I thought about going back to Portland—I grew up there—but I don't really know anyone there anymore. I've always loved Seattle. Oh, and the other main reason—I fell in love with someone here.

How do the rent prices and apartments compare?

I'm paying way more now, because in Oakland I had four roommates. When I moved here, I decided I didn't want roommates anymore and I live by myself now. Well, it's me and the cats. Rents on Capitol Hill seem about \$500 less than they were in Oakland, and about \$1,000 less than San Francisco.

What do you miss from your hometown?

I miss a lot of people. SO MANY PEOPLE. But Seattle feels more like a city than Oakland. It's kind of barren there. For instance, when I was back there, we were looking for some crazy costumes for the band to wear at a show, but we couldn't find any vintage stores there at all. There's one in Berkeley, but that's it. ONE. Seattle has tons of vintage stores—they're all over the place.

What's the weirdest thing about Seattle so far?

Definitely a strong style thing happening here. And the gender benders here are so fluid. Style fluid, gender fluid. Everyone can wear lipstick, and nobody cares. Like, I saw an old man in QFC, and he didn't seem gay but he was wearing a dress. I thought, "Damn, that's cool."

Lesley, Molecular Biologist

Where did you move from?

I moved here from Oakland, California. Not in the worst neighborhood, but there were two shootings RIGHT in front of my house there.

Why Seattle?

For several reasons. I love Seattle, even though I don't have any family or connections here. From the very first time I visited, it just felt like it was where I belonged. The people here are so nice too. Also, my husband and I wanted a fresh start—we were in Oakland for a while and crime got really bad and rent got really high. I saw someone die in front of my house, and that really solidified our plans to move.

How do the rent prices and apartments compare?

Our Oakland rent, for a small house, jumped from \$1,250 to \$2,550 pretty quickly. Now we pay around \$1,300 for a one-bedroom here in the Ballard-Phinney Ridge area.

What do you miss from your hometown?

Diversity. Seattle seems kind of homogenous. I haven't found any good Mexican food yet, either. I miss friends. My chosen family is still there.

What's the weirdest thing about Seattle so far?

The fact that everyone brings up the "Seattle freeze." Every person I've met! I have just never experienced that—people here are insanely friendly so far. ■

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A Guide for the Very, Very New to Town

*Think it's hard being new to town?
Try being new to the world.
Here are places you can bring your
baby without causing a hassle.*

BY ANGELA GARBES

If you're new to town, Seattle may feel like a tough place to settle into. It's often gray, wet, and cold. It takes time to find the best places to get coffee and pho. Even if you have marketable skills, finding a good job can be hard.

Imagine being new to *the world*. Newborn babies have zero skills besides knowing how to suckle. Their digestive systems are not fully developed, so they burp, fart, and shit their pants loudly, often in public. And after 40 weeks nestled deep within a cozy, dark, warm cave, blissfully naked, babies suddenly find themselves under harsh fluorescent lighting, wearing ridiculous things like tiny socks. It's no wonder they cry all the time.

To help babies remember the time they spent floating weightless in amniotic fluid, consider taking them swimming at one of Seattle's many public pools. A few of them—including Ballard, Queen Anne, Rainier Beach, and Southwest—offer weekly hours specifically set aside for young children and their caregivers, as well as swim lessons for babies six months and up. ▶

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(1/27) **Stolen Youth:**
How to Stop
Human Trafficking

(1/27) **Leif Wenar**
Ending Dependence on 'Blood Oil'

(1/28) **Rick Shenkman**
How Human Instinct
Shapes Elections

(1/31) **Seattle Festival Orchestra**
Beethoven, Lalo, Dvořák

(2/1) **Mei Fong**
Exploring China's 'Radical'
One Child Policy

(2/2) **Robert Gates**
Building a Foundation for Leadership

(2/2) **Phyllis Bennis**
The Foundations of ISIS,
World Terror

(2/3) **WA Amend :**
Derek Cressman
'When Money Talks'

(2/3) **Eli Sanders and Jennifer Hopper with Marcie Sillman**
'While the City Slept'

(2/4) **Ted Rall**
Bernie Sanders, A New Political Era

(2/5) **Adam Grant with Jeff Ashby**
'How Nonconformists
Move the World'

(2/6) **Gay City Arts:**
Lush Us Showcase
Feat. **Mary Lambert** and others

(2/8) **Alec Ross**
The Future of Innovation and Work

(2/9) **John Donvan and Caren Zucker**
Unpacking the Mysteries of Autism

(2/10) **Seattle Arts and Lectures:**
Amber Tamblyn
Feat. **Bonnie Tamblyn**

(2/10) **Courtney White**
Low-Cost
Climate Change Solutions

(2/11) **The Art of Alzheimer's:**
'His Neighbor Phil'
Film Screening

(2/11) **Don Glickstein**
Stopping a War That Won't End

(2/12) **Lake Union Civic Orchestra**
Higdon, Lalo, Beethoven

(2/14) **Valentine's Day Special**
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TOWN HALL CIVICS SCIENCE ARTS & CULTURE COMMUNITY

Brewery tasting rooms are terrific places to take babies because, unlike bars, the majority of them are all ages. The best brewery to take your baby to is probably the one closest to your house.

◀ The recently remodeled **Rainier Beach Pool** is especially baby- and kid-friendly, with a separate family pool area that includes a hot tub, water slide, fountain, and lazy river.

Seattle is home to more than 400 public parks, and some of the most charming ones can be found in the industrial neighborhood of Georgetown. While they may not have the beautiful, sweeping views of parks such as Carkeek, Discovery, and Seward, they all have features that will blow the minds of small people, and can be easily explored on foot in less than an hour.

At **Ruby Chow Park**, located at the north end of Boeing Field/King County International Airport, babies can coo and wonder at the giant airplanes flying directly overhead. It might seem counterintuitive, but the loud noise actually soothes them. A few blocks away, **Oxbow Park**, better known as "Hat 'n' Boots," is home to a fantastic 44-foot-wide orange cowboy hat and a pair of 22-foot-tall cowboy boots—remnants of an old gas station rumored to have been visited by Elvis. (If your child is unimpressed by this, there's also grass, a play area, and a community garden.) During warm weather, the spray park at **Georgetown Playfield**, which is never crowded, is among the best and most laid-back places in town for kids to run around. Nearby, big trains roll past—their loud whistles matched only by the sounds of babies squealing in delight.

Just a few blocks from Georgetown Playfield is **Machine House Brewery**, which pours English-style session ales. Machine House is the breast-feeding, beer-drinking mother's best friend: The beers are all low in alcohol and poured from traditional wood-and-brass hand pumps, which will feel oddly comforting and familiar to anyone who spends hours of their day hooked up to a breast pump. (Machine House, located inside the original Rainier Brewery, is also huge, with loud acoustics and a stockpile of games and toys.)

Speaking of beer, brewery tasting rooms are terrific places to take babies because, unlike bars, the majority of them are all ages. The best brewery to take your baby to is probably the one closest to your house, but others that are particularly good: Ballard's **Stoup Brewing**, which has lots of space, including a huge patio; Columbia City's **Flying Lion Brewing**, which is small but has unfailingly friendly service (including a bartender who's a

doula-in-training); and Sodo's **Seapine Brewing Company**, which has a spacious taproom that is often populated with friendly dogs.

If your baby likes to pet and talk to animals, then head to **Zoomazium**, the indoor children's facility at the Woodland Park Zoo. Zoomazium encourages nature-themed play: rock-climbing, wrestling stuffed orangutans, exploring caves, and picking up fossils, bones, and shells. Every day at 10:30 a.m., the Creature Feature program allows kids to gently touch real animals—reptiles like leopard geckos and snakes, as well as mammals such as rats and armadillos. The tenderness with which your little mammal greets another little creature will move you.

Loving and caring for your small being takes work—and support. New families can find comfort and guidance from organizations such as the **Program for Early Parent Support** (PEPS), which connects parents in neighborhoods throughout the city. If you are part of a family of color, you should join **Families of Color Seattle** (FOCS), which offers a variety of parenting and support groups: for parents with newborns and waddlers (six months to three years), for dads, as well as for couples. FOCS actively initiates complex and essential discussions about culture, language, race, and identity, both in its parenting groups and public Community Dialogues (childcare provided, of course). Beyond these conversations, FOCS also offers cultural arts classes such as African dance and drumming, Brazilian capoeira, and toddler breakdancing.

Giving birth doesn't mark the debut of just one being in the world, but two: baby and mother. In the physically and emotionally exhausting postpartum days, it's easy for women to feel both awed and slightly horrified by their bodies. Ladies, when you're feeling strong enough, get yourself to **Dance Church**—an hour and a half of guided improvisation and movement set to pop music—at Velocity Dance Center. This Sunday morning service should be a required activity for all the new postpartum bodies that need to be celebrated as the divine vessels they are.

When Dance Church leader Kate Wallich instructs you to "grind your crotch down into the floor" during a Drake song and someone near you giggles uncomfortably, throw your head back and laugh, mothers. This is the easiest, most liberating thing your vagina has had to do all year, so get down on it. ■

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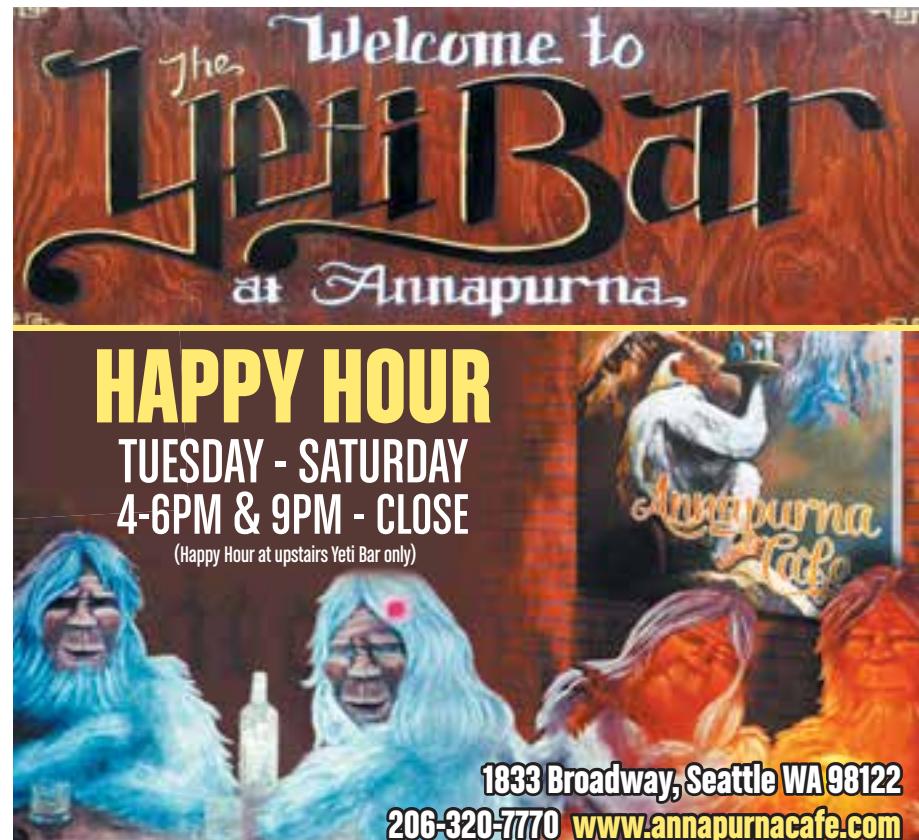
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THE CLOUD ROOM It already has 200 members, approaching capacity. It also has work spaces and a bar.

Four New Places That Say Something About Seattle Right Now

The Cloud Room

1424 11th Ave, Fourth Floor, CloudRoomSeattle.com

In 2005, the writer Charles McGrath described the decline in exclusive clubs in New York, especially the ones located many stories up, like the famous Cloud Club at the top of the Chrysler Building. Once, it meant something to belong. "It used to be a rule in New York that the higher up you were in the world, the higher up in the sky you ate your lunch," McGrath wrote.

Seattle had a Cloud Room of its own, but it was a glorious piano lounge for anybody and everybody. Very Seattle—Old Seattle. It was called the Cloud Room because it was on the rooftop of the Camlin Hotel downtown, with beautiful views. It closed in 2003 after the building was bought and turned into a luxury resort.

New Seattle has a new Cloud Room. It's located on Capitol Hill, part of a new mini-complex of specialty shops and independent businesses in a refurbished old auto-row-era

building on 11th Avenue near Pike Street. This Cloud Room utterly blends business and pleasure. It's a coworking space that's also a social club, and Liz Dunn, the developer who created it and who owns the building, sees it as a creative center, too. She hired a creative director, Michael Hebb. (*The Stranger* has been a sponsor of events at the Cloud Room.)

If you're a member (\$300 per month or \$3,000 per year), you get a key fob. You use it in the elevator to access the fourth floor. Get off and you'll see an attendant at the front desk through a wall of glass doors; she's there during daytime hours, but members have access 24/7. The Cloud Room is the entire floor—6,500 square feet—arranged the way a day might be arranged, said Dunn. First there's work, with fixed workstations near the entrance (for one of those you pay \$600 per month or

\$6,000 per year). There are meeting rooms. As you move, seating at tables and chairs gets looser and looser, until finally you arrive at the bar and lounge, with low-slung furniture and a white shag rug. Bartender Jay Kuehner will serve you. (Drinks are not complimentary.) Look out over Capitol Hill from the big rooftop deck. The Cloud Room's New Year's Eve event for members was called

"Above the Fray."

The Cloud Room opened officially in September, and already it has 200 members, approaching capacity.

Dunn and Hebb want it to be "philosophically ambitious," Dunn said, "to cultivate a community of creative do-ers. It's like a clubhouse. Not in any exclusive sense of the word. We're just trying to get people who do really cool shit to meet each other and know each other."

Most members are invited or

recommended, but anyone can apply. The short list of questions focuses on "What are you working on?" It must be cool shit, and it must not be antisocial. Members attend events often put on by other members. Jody Hall's pot company the Goodship puts on "heady" lectures—heady in part because everybody in attendance is (supposed to be) stoned—about such topics as the nature of infinity.

For its first year, the Cloud Room extended free membership to the 60 winners of the Stranger Genius Award, which are given annually to Seattle artists in music, visual art, literature, film, and performance. Forty joined. To predict how many will re-up when membership's not free next year, consult the Cloud Room's astrologer in residence.

Dunn sees her Cloud Room as an homage to Old Seattle. She named it in tribute to the lounge that was luxuriated to death; she'd loved the old Cloud Room.

"The city was a little rougher around the edges," Dunn recalled. That was then. JEN GRAVES

"It's like a club-house," says developer and owner Liz Dunn.

ERIC BEAGER JULIA MURRAY

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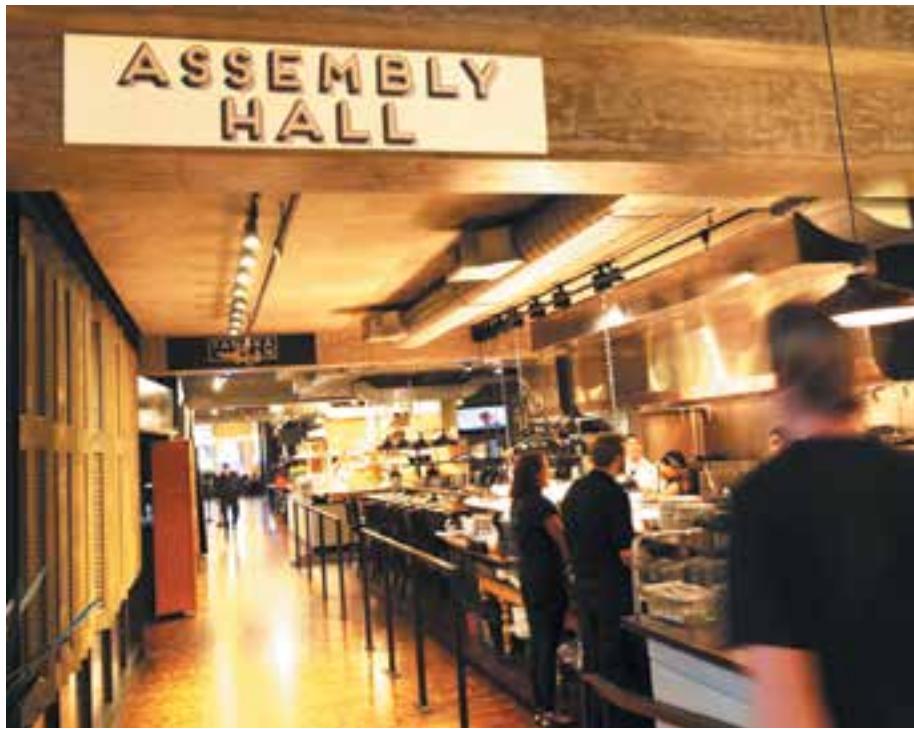
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VIA6 All the food is made by Tom Douglas Restaurants, which owns three businesses on the ground floor.

Via6

2121 Sixth Ave, Via6Seattle.com

At noon on a Tuesday, the mezzanine area of Via6—a 24-story building comprising two residential towers, an indoor/outdoor pavilion, and six floors of residential and retail space—is filled with people: professional women in sleek suits and heels, tech workers with blue badges, muscular dudes in workout gear, and several groups of construction workers from nearby job sites in yellow-and-orange safety vests.

With the exception of one muscular dude, who is playing pool by himself and nodding his head to the music playing through his earbuds, everyone is eating lunch: green smoothies, rice bowls topped with teriyaki pork shoulder, Indian-style burritos stuffed with curried potatoes and yogurt, roast turkey sandwiches, and salads with quinoa and

harissa-roasted carrots.

All the food is made by Tom Douglas Restaurants, which owns three businesses on the ground floor, occupying 10,000 square feet of space: Assembly Hall Juice & Coffee; TanakaSan, a full-service Asian restaurant; and Home Remedy, a deli/quick-service restaurant/drug store with made-to-order sandwiches, a salad bar, a pizza station, and a remarkable amount of stuff, including charcuterie, cheese, beer, wine, instant ramen, ibuprofen, and tampons. (Douglas owns another eight restaurants within short walking distance of Via6, and his corporate offices are just around the corner.)

The developers of Via6 describe it as a “vertical neighborhood” where “Belltown, Downtown, and South Lake Union meet up.” In addition to the restaurants, the ground floor also holds a flower shop, a bike shop, and a barber shop that are open to the public, ▶

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FOLIO Reading rooms, a library, and cultural programs of all sorts.

as well as screening rooms for residents. In the mezzanine/gaming area, there are shuffleboard tables, tabletop Ms. Pac-Man, and ring-toss games. Press a call button and a server from TanakaSan will come up the flight of stairs to take your food and beverage order.

Via6's owners describe it as a "vertical neighborhood."

Residents of Via6 also have access to a full-service concierge "to help with reservations, dry cleaning, and more," a fitness center, a dog-washing station, bike-washing and storage areas, and on-site Zipcars.

Via6 is an example of the kind of urban density Seattleites say they want, including easy access to high-quality goods, services, and transportation alternatives. Kitchens in Via6 come equipped with energy-efficient, stainless-steel appliances, though most of the food available for purchase on the first floor does not require the use of an actual appliance.

Studio apartments begin at \$1,900 a month. ANGELA GARBES

Folio: The Seattle Athenaeum

314 Marion St, FolioSeattle.org

Folio is a member-based library and workspace for writers located in the heart of downtown. A "membership library," in this case, means you have to pay \$125 per year to gain access, which is only a little bit more than a standard subscription to Netflix.

One thing Folio says about Seattle is that David Brewster—founder of the *Seattle Weekly*, Town Hall, and Crosscut—still has money he's willing to bet on this city's interest in having some civilized civic conversations. Aside from offering a few large reading rooms stuffed with contemporary fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, Folio will offer programming such as debates of issues like the economic impact of a \$15 minimum wage and live chamber music practice.

Brewster said he wants to amplify the voices of Seattle's artists and intellectuals (some of whom are the same people, of course), pulling not only from the lefty-radical poets but also from the libertarian techies zipping around South Lake Union on their Solowheels. With Folio, Brewster wants to create a kind of rogue academic space. It could be the cheapest university you ever attend. RICH SMITH



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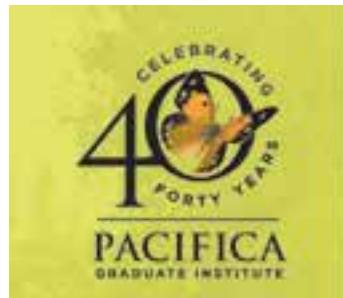
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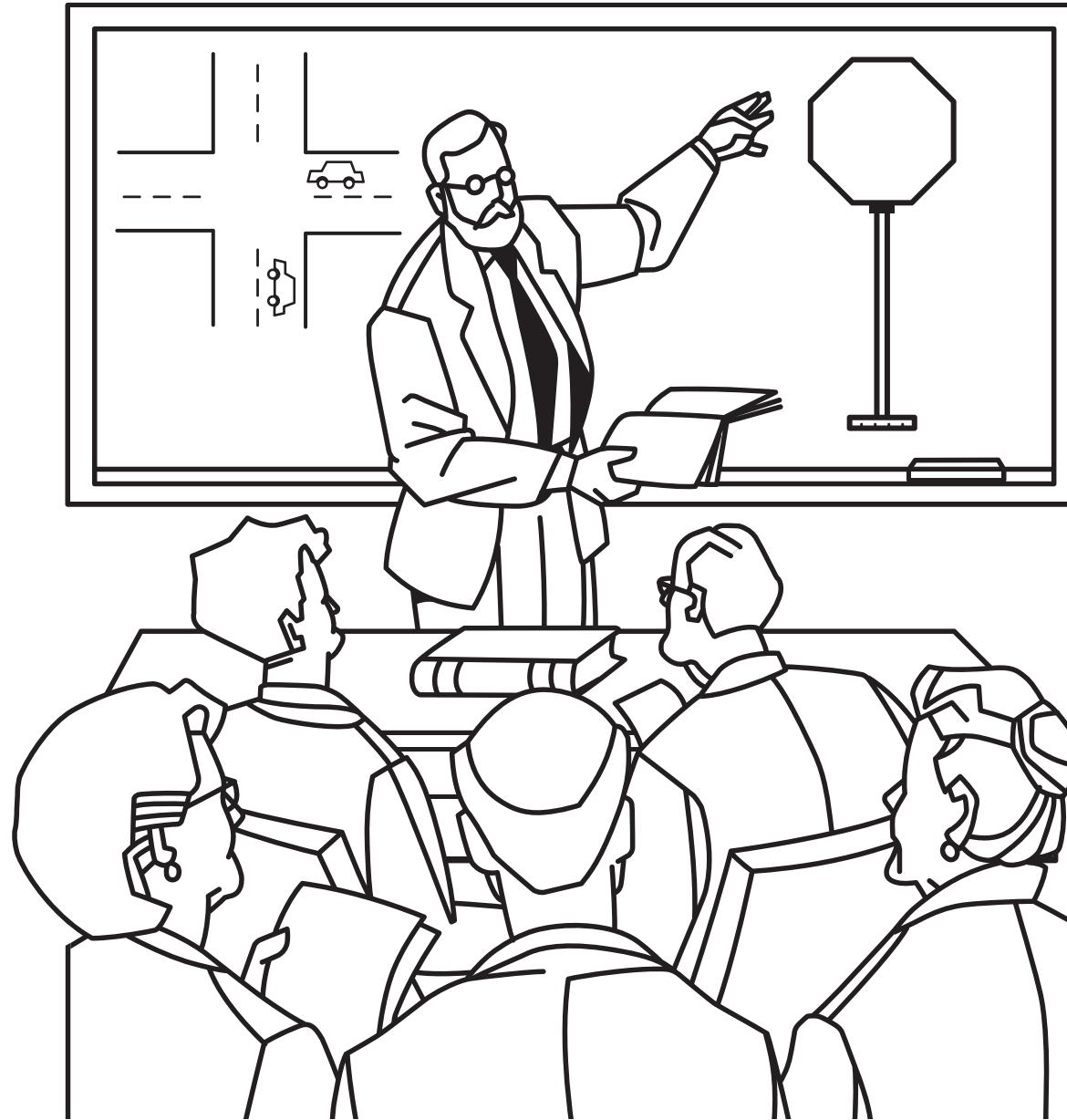
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I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE! WE CAN FINALLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT...

...People Not Knowing How to Drive

Look, I am from Seattle and I agree: People in Seattle do not know how to drive. Let's discard all the theories about root causes for a moment. (Though if you must know, here's a brief catalog: a debilitating legacy of Nordic caution, passive-aggressive impulses overriding common sense, liberal-do-gooder impulses overriding common sense, a profound lack of snow-driving experience.) Instead, let's just talk for a second about one specific way that we can all begin to make things better: your four-way stop behavior. It's really very simple, people. Here is the rule, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation: "At a four-way-stop, the driver reaching the intersection first, goes first (after coming to a complete stop). If more than one vehicle arrives at the same time, the vehicle on the right goes first." Yes, we can all begin imagining many kinds of complex four-way-stop scenarios and then begin exploring deep, space-time-bending questions about those scenarios. But please, for just a moment, wrap your head around this one thing: IF YOU GOT THERE FIRST, GO FIRST!

The failure of Seattle's drivers to follow this simple rule causes so many bottlenecks and rage-spirals, I feel like we could maybe solve the city's traffic mess and ratchet people's anger problems way down if everyone who arrives at one of our city's abundant four-way stops would just GO FIRST IF YOU GOT THERE FIRST. Please, Seattle drivers, for the greater good, I beg of you: Don't imagine you're making up for historical injustices, or your guilt about failing to tip your barista earlier that day, or that time you cut somebody off by sitting there and waiting at a four-way-stop to let *someone else* go first when it's actually, legally *your* right and responsibility to go first. Just fucking go! (If you got there first.) Thank you. Sheesh. PS: Having said all that, please never stop abandoning your cars in the middle of the road when it snows half an inch, Seattle. I kinda love that about you. ELI SANDERS

...Standing on the Escalator

If you have moved to Seattle from a world-class city that has lots of escalators at subway stations and other busy public hubs, then please skip this section and read the



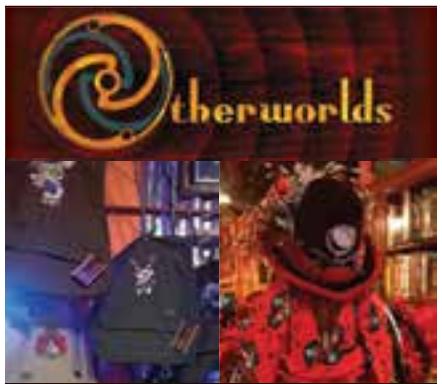
KELLY O

other parts of this package. They will certainly contain facts and details about your new home that are not so obvious.

But if you came from somewhere like Spokane, Boise, or Butte, please read what I have to say very carefully and more than once. Indeed, read these words until you can

repeat them in your sleep. The trick, however, is to not just memorize this information but to put it to use, to make it a part of your life in this new and rapidly growing city.

Now, when you exit the Link train at the International District Station, or Pioneer Square Station, or Westlake Station, and ►



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◀ use an escalator to return to the ground level, you have a choice: You can either move with the moving steps or stand on the moving steps. But here is the crucial thing: If you decide to stand, then you must do so on the right side of the escalator. Why? Because it leaves a space open for those who, for a reason that is none of your business, have decided to rush up the moving steps.

I know people in Idaho and similar sleepy states are not familiar with this modern thing called *being in a hurry*. And you are also fond of the good-people feelings you get from standing shoulder-to-shoulder with your best buddy, your dad-bodied boyfriend, your chubby hubby, or your baggage. It's all very friendly that way. We big-city types get all of that, and we do our best to accommodate as many of your very many small-town ways as we can. But when you are on that damn fucking escalator, break with those damn fucking small-town ways and obey this rule as strictly as you do the commandments in the book of your lord: standing on the right, walking on the left.

One more thing: The same law holds true when you're on descending escalators. Welcome to Seattle! CHARLES MUDEDE

...Umbrellas

You've probably heard that "real Seattleites" don't own umbrellas. Instead, everyone buys one of those flimsy rain jackets that transform people into wizards. You've probably been told that all of this makes sense because it rains only when it's chilly here, and the "rain" in question is largely a sort of aggressive species of drizzle. Thus, an umbrella is overkill, plus awkward in the wind.

Don't listen to that nonsense. I've never been caught in the rain thinking, "Gee, I hate being so prepared to handle this situation with my umbrella! Guess my relative dryness is the price I pay for not being a 'real Seattleite.'" FUCK IT. Bust out the 'brollies. Let your transplant flag fly.

And while we're on the subject: Let's agree, right now, as a people, that umbrellas, like pens, exist in the realm of the public domain. Let us admit that no one truly owns an umbrella. They are but brief shelters from cloudwrath, freely lost and freely found. RICH SMITH

...Solowheels

Look, mom! It's Rosie, the robot maid from *The Jetsons*! No, it's a unicycle Segway! No, it's... it's... some fucking optimize-every-aspect-of-my-life Solowheel motherfucker who's going to be 10 minutes early—instead of *five minutes early*—to his PechaKucha coffee-klatch thing in South Lake Union. GAH.

You're not optimizing your life by rolling around on that nerd wheel—you're ruining it. Let me explain why:

Riding a Solowheel means you're missing out on developing what my friend Becca calls the "Seattle butt." If you haven't noticed, people here have good asses. That's because they walk and bike everywhere. These activities

...Bagels

Good bagels are a necessary food group. Alas, there is not one true slightly-crunchy-yet-also-chewy New York-style bagel in this town, therefore there is not one good bagel in this town. Your choices are basically pricey Canadian bagels at Eltana or spongy, fat, shiny bagels nearly everywhere else. Bagel Oasis in Ravenna is *serviceable* (good schmears), and the Bean & Bagel in the University District is almost the real deal, but their bagels are kinda small. (Am I missing something? Let me know!)

In the meantime, one of you newbies needs to do this city a favor and open a decent bagel shop, even if it means you have to import the water. RICH SMITH

...Competitive Yoga Breathing

Yoga is not supposed to be competitive. I know this because that's what nearly every yoga teacher I've ever had has said at the beginning of his or her class. (It doesn't matter how limber you are; *you can always return to child's pose*.) And yet, when it comes to breathing, Seattle's yoga practitioners are expressive to the point of being oppressive. It's one thing to be connected to your breath—*great! I'm happy for you!*—and another to sigh so loudly that on every exhale you're practically bragging about how comfortable you are with your own goddamn presence. This isn't a matter of skill, and there's nothing Zen about it. Perhaps these competitive breathers should pay for their own private yoga instructor and leave the rest of us to quietly hyperventilate together. SYDNEY BROWNSTONE





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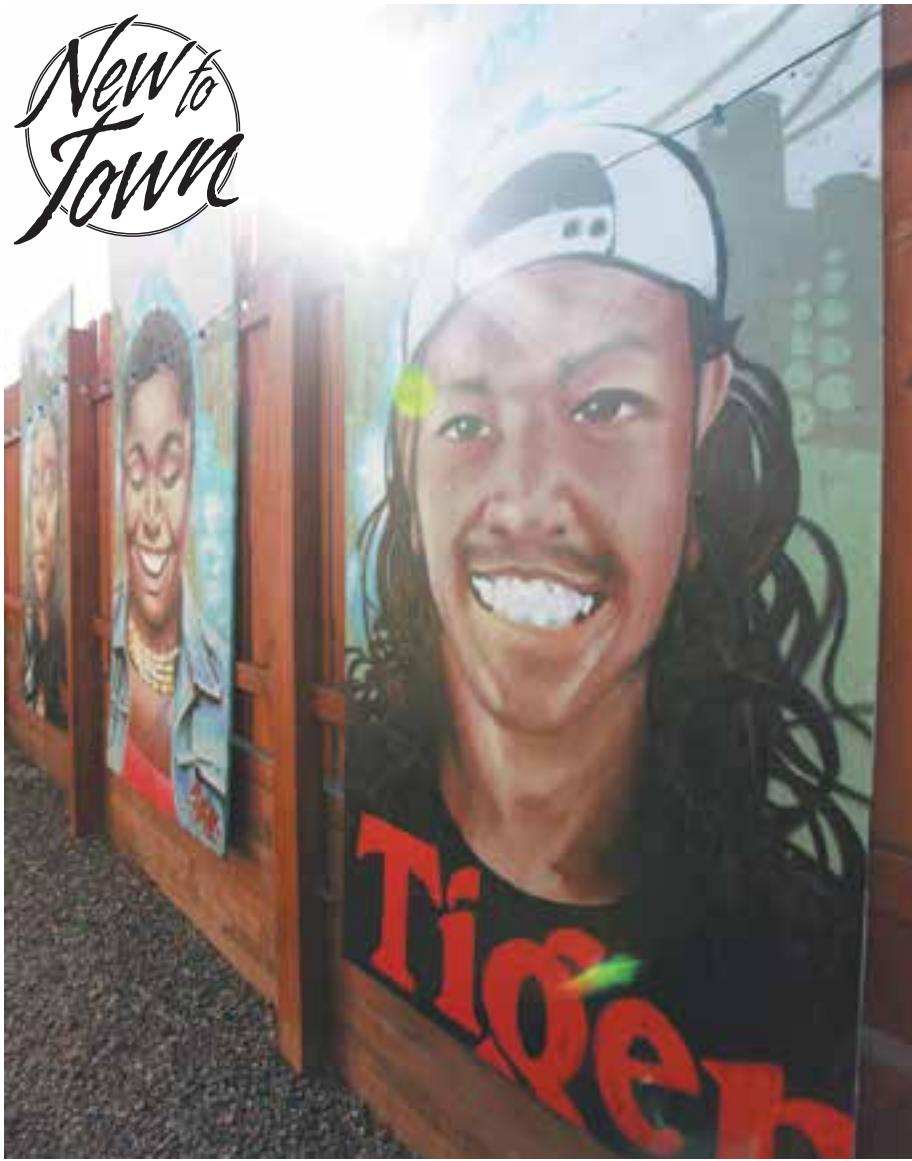
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THE STATION The heart of Seattle's underground hiphop scene.

How to Navigate Seattle If You Are a Person of Color

BY CHARLES MUDEDE

If you are a person of color and new to this city, here are some things you need to know: Seattle is one of the whitest major cities in America and, in fact, is becoming slightly whiter. In general, its northern neighborhoods are very white and its southern ones are multicolored (although it's losing its historic Black neighborhood, the Central District, to gentrification). There are places in the deep north (Mountlake Terrace, for example) that have Black African and Asian enclaves, but the south is where the majority of the city's people of color reside. Indeed, one of its neighborhoods, Brighton, is, according to the 2010 census, almost 90 percent people of color. There is no place like that in the north. As a consequence, many of the major Chinese, Filipino, Black African, Black American, Vietnamese, and Latino establishments, events, and recreational centers can be found in the south and, increasingly, the deep south. There is a good reason why the INS offices are located in Burien.

Here are the places you should know:

Morning Star Cafe (a pop-up that happens mostly in South Seattle)

If you google "A DJ and a Cook," you will find a website that contains information about the next location for Morning Star Cafe's

pop-up brunch. Chef Tarik Abdullah's cooking is simply wonderful, and his events usually include a live band, a DJ, or a poet. The last brunch I attended, I found a whole lot of people who looked just like me, Black, eating Abdullah's lush and wide-ranging inventions. North Africa, the American South, and the Middle East are the biggest influences on his menus.

Safeway on Rainier Avenue (Rainier Valley)

This supermarket used to be a very mixed place—lots of Blacks (African and American), whites, Latinos, and Asians. But ever since a PCC (aka expensive food) opened in Columbia City, I have noticed that fewer and fewer whites shop here. Though the Safeway

sucks for having replaced the Silver Fork, a Black American restaurant and institution, with a gas station, it has really great sections for Mexican and Asian foods. Also, there is a Ross Dress for Less next door, alive with the colors of the world.

Westfield Southcenter (Tukwila)

If you want to see the future of South Seattle (indeed, the future of the minority-majority America), go to this mall. Its swirl of cultures, colors, and languages will, if you are not prepared, make your head spin. This mall is the Babylon of our metropolis. ►



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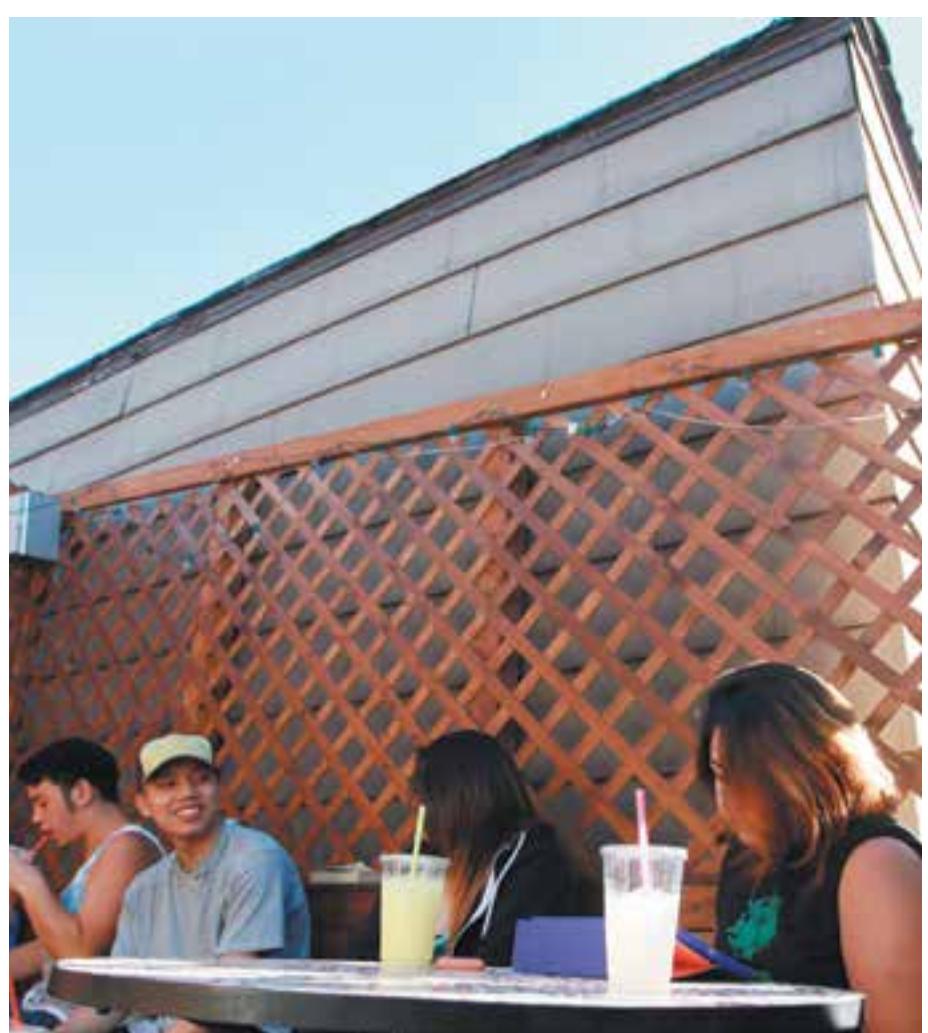
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THE STATION Rappers, artists, and poets hang out at this cafe.

The Blu Grouse (Georgetown)

If you had been in this town in the 1990s, you would have found a good number of Black bars and restaurants. Today, there is only a handful. One such place is the Blu Grouse in Georgetown, a former house that's been transformed into a bar, restaurant, and nightclub. The last time I visited the joint, I ran into the Ghetto President (a local hiphop promoter) and a whole bunch of other brothers and sisters I had not seen in ages. They all sat in the backyard chilling, eating, drinking, and listening to the latest beats. The only non-people of color here were serving drinks behind the bar. (A note: The neighborhood north of Georgetown, Sodo, has the highest percentage of Native Americans in Seattle.)

The Station (Beacon Hill)

This cafe is really the heartbeat of Beacon Hill, a neighborhood that's more than 50 percent Asian American. It's also the heart of Seattle's underground hiphop scene. The highly regarded Ethiopian American rapper Gabriel Teodros is a regular. JusMoni of the Black Weirdo world works there. (Do not miss a Black Weirdo party, if you get word of one.) The last time I visited the place, a Black transgender person hushed me for talking too loudly. They were trying to concentrate on a poem. The Station has got it like that.

White Center (West Seattle)

This neighborhood is minority-majority and has lots of great Mexican and Southeast Asian joints, as well as a popular bowling alley, Roxbury Lanes, that has a casino and sells very good Chinese food. White Center is the people-of-color capital of West Seattle.

Starbucks on 23rd (Central District)

This Starbucks is very popular with East Africans and Black Americans, despite the fact that the neighborhood (the CD) has become mostly white. If you happen to visit the place, you might even see Charlie James, a veteran Black nationalist activist who always sports a handsome fez.

Northwest African American Museum (Central District)

All of the events and parties at NAAM, which is devoted to the preservation, promotion, and advancement of Black American culture in the Pacific Northwest, are well attended by members of the Black community. This is the place the city came to process what happened in Ferguson, Missouri, in August of 2014.

Fort St. George (International District)

The Asian American bartenders at this Japanese American spot are really something else. They listen mostly to '90s hiphop and rare soul. Young Asian Americans dig the food here, which is a combination of popular American and Japanese dishes. The first time I ever heard Pastor T.L. Barrett and the Youth for Christ Choir's album *Like a Ship... (Without a Sail)* was here. Initially released in 1971, but rereleased in 2010 by the local label Light in the Attic, *Like a Ship* is a gorgeous work of gospel soul. It almost makes you want to believe in God. The universe makes no sense in this music. And there is a very good chance that I might have gone through my whole life without ever discovering this record if it wasn't for the bartenders of Fort St George.

Jefferson Park (Beacon Hill)

What you will find at this park is a constant celebration of Seattle's diversity. All kinds of people visit it to play tennis (my Southeast Asian neighbor in Columbia City gives lessons here) or golf (which is really popular with middle-aged Black American men), or to walk around the field, which used to be an open reservoir but was closed to protect our water from terrorists. Though some of the public art here is regrettable, Jefferson Park can be proud of the fact that it is one of the few places in town that hosts cricket matches, a sport beloved by members of the Polynesian community. Another great park for people of color is Pratt Park, which is near the rather splashy Ethiopian restaurant Wonder Coffee & Sports Bar and Lake Chad Cafe, a place that's straight out of Africa. ■

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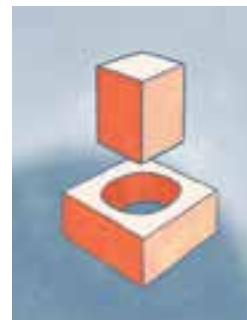


SAVAGE LOVE

Sound Mind and Body **BY DAN SAVAGE**

Down to business: Christmas came and every present I bought for my extraordinary husband could be opened in front of our children. He deserves better, and I have a particular gift in mind for Valentine's Day. My husband is interested in sounding, something we've attempted with my little finger. But the last thing I want to do is damage his big beautiful dick. So is sounding a fun thing? Is it a safe thing? Recommendations for a beginner's sounding kit? Or just get him another butt plug?

Safety Of Sounding
P.S. Here is a pic of the big beautiful dick I don't want to damage.



JOE NEWTON

Sounding, for those of you who didn't go to the same Sunday school I did, involves the insertion of smooth metal or plastic rods into the urethra. Sounding is sometimes done for legitimate medical purposes (to open up a constricted urethra, to locate a blockage), and it's sometimes done for legitimate erotic purposes (some find the sensation pleasurable, and others are turned on by the transgression, particularly when a man is being sounded, i.e., the penetrator's penetrator penetrated).

So, yeah, some people definitely think sounding is a fun thing, SOS.

"But whether or not something is a safe thing depends on knowledge of the risks/pitfalls and an observance of proper technique," said Dr. Keith D. Newman, a urologist and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. "The urethral lining has the consistency of wet paper towels and can be damaged easily. And the male urethra takes a bend just before the prostate. That's where most sounding injuries occur."

Recreational cock sounders—particularly newbies—shouldn't attempt to push past that bend. But how do you know when you've arrived at that bend? "SOS's partner should do the inserting initially," said Dr. Newman, "as the bend in the urethra is easily recognized by the soundee. Once he understands the sensations, what works, and when the danger areas are reached, SOS can participate safely."

And cleanliness matters, SOS, whether you're sounding the husband or serving burritos to the public.

"Infection is always an issue," said Dr. Newman. "Clean is good, but the closer to sterile the better. And be careful about fingers. They can be more dangerous than sounds because of the nails and difficulty in sterilizing."

So your previous attempts at sounding—those times you jammed your little finger into your husband's piss slit—were more dangerous than the sounding you'll be doing with the lovely new set of sounding rods.

Moving on...

"Spit is not lube," said Dr. Newman. "Water or silicone-based lubes are good; oil-based is not so good with metal instruments." (You can also go online and order little single-serving packets of sterile lubricant. Don't ask me how I know this.) Using "glass or other breakable instruments" as sounds is a Very Bad Idea. Dr. Newman was pretty emphatic on this point—and while it sounds like a fairly obvious point, anyone who's worked in an ER can tell you horror stories about all the Very Bad Ideas they've retrieved from people's urethras, vaginas, and rectums.

Now let's go shopping!

"Choosing the best 'starter kit' is not hard: Pratt Dilators are not hard to find online, they're not that expensive, and they will last a lifetime," said Dr. Newman. (I found a set of Pratt Dilators on Amazon for less than \$30.) And when your set arrives, SOS, don't make the common mistake of starting with the skinniest sound. "Inserting something too small allows wiggle room on the way in and for a potential to stab the urethral wall," said Dr. Newman.

You can gently stroke your husband's cock once the sound is in place, SOS; you can even blow him. Vaginal intercourse is off the table, obviously, and you might not wanna fuck his big beautiful dick with a sound until you're both feeling like sounding experts. And when that

time comes: Don't stab away at his cock with a sound in order to sound-fuck him. A quality sound has some weight and heft—hold his erection upright, slowly pull the well-lubricated, non-glass sound until it's almost all the way out, and then let go. It will sink back without any help from you.

Your husband's butt should be plug-free during your sounding sessions, SOS, as a plug could compress a section of his urethra. If you're skilled enough to work around the bend—or if you're foolish enough to push past it—the sound could puncture his compressed urethra. And a punctured urethra is every bit as unpleasant as it sounds. (Sorry.)

Finally, SOS, what about coming? Will your husband's balls explode if he blows a load while a metal rod is stuffed in his urethra?

"Coming with the sound in place is a matter of personal preference," said Dr. Newman. "There is no particular danger involved."

P.S. Thank you for the picture.

My wife and I have an amazing sex life. A couple of years ago, I bought her one of those partial-body sex dolls (it has a cock and part of the stomach). We took videos while using it. Very hot. We later got a black version of the same toy. (We are white.) Even hotter videos. Over the past year, I created Photoshop porn of my wife with black men using screenshots from commercial porn. I haven't shared this with my wife. We never discussed what to do with the videos. I assumed she trusted me not to share these images with anyone. (I haven't and won't!) Is it okay that I have a stash of Photoshop porn of my wife fucking black men? Should I share this info—and my fantasies—with her? I've always fantasized about her being with a black man.

Secretly Keeping Encrypted Porn That Isn't Clearly Allowed Lately

You need to speak to your wife about those videos, about the way you've manipulated them, and about your fantasies—but that's a lot to lay on her at once, SKEPTICAL, so take it in stages.

Find a time to ask her about those videos and whether she wants them discarded or if you can continue to hang on to them. At a different time, bring up your racially charged fantasies and what those partial-body sex dolls were doing for you. If she reacts positively to your having held on to the videos and to your fantasies, ask her how she feels about you creating a few images using Photoshop of her hooking up with a black man for fantasy purposes only. It's a little dishonest—you're asking for permission to do what you've already done—but you'll know what you need to do if her answer to the Photoshop question is "No, absolutely not!" (To be clear: You'll need to delete those Photoshopped pics.)

All that said, SKEPTICAL, if the images you're holding on to—the originals and/or the manipulated ones—could destroy your marriage and/or your wife's life and/or your wife's career if they got out (computers can be hacked or stolen, clouds may not be as secure as advertised), don't wait: Delete them now. ■

On the Lovecast, porn star Bailey Jay on the perils and pleasures of letting your dirty photos out: savagecast.com.

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THINGS TO DO ARTS & CULTURE

All the Events The Stranger Suggests This Week

Find the complete calendar of things to do in Seattle
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Eli Sanders and Jennifer Hopper with Marcie Sillman: While the City Slept
Wed Feb 3 at Town Hall



READINGS & TALKS

Eli Sanders and Jennifer Hopper with Marcie Sillman: *While the City Slept*

DON'T MISS In 2012, *The Stranger's* Eli Sanders won a Pulitzer Prize for "The Bravest Woman in Seattle," a story about a horrific crime and the courage of the survivor. Now Sanders expands on that crime, its roots, and its lessons in his first book, *While the City Slept*. Beautifully weaving together the stories of the three individuals involved, Sanders also cogently lays out the failures of our mental-health and criminal-justice systems to prevent the crime from happening. Sanders and Jennifer Hopper—the "bravest woman"—will be at Town Hall to discuss the book, in a conversation moderated by KUOW's Marcie Sillman. (Town Hall, Wed Feb 3, 7:30 pm, \$5) **KATHLEEN RICHARDS**

Word Works: Maggie Nelson

DON'T MISS I'm continually surprised that Maggie Nelson's brain doesn't constantly burst into flames. She has one of those minds you wish you could just download. This is all to say that her thinking is lightning fast and her syntheses of various theorists refreshes the world. For instance, in her most recent book, *The Argonauts*, which is up for a National Book Critics Circle Award this year, she uses queer theory to explore motherhood, love, and indeterminacy. Throughout the book she grounds these abstract ideas in discussions of people and things that are not one but not quite two: a ship called the Argo, a pregnant woman, labia, the gender of a butch on testosterone. For days after I read the book, I was constantly scanning my world for similar nonbinary phenomena. Her lecture at Hugo House will be all about writing the body, which is something she does a lot of in *The Argonauts* but also in her *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year: *The Art of Cruelty*. Oh, and, BTW, if you happen to be going through a breakup right now, then

read *Bluets*. I dare you. (*Hugo House*, Thurs Jan 28, 7 pm, \$12) **RICH SMITH**

We also recommend...

Geraldine Brooks: McCaw Hall, Thurs Jan 28, 7:30 pm, \$5-\$60

Martha Rosler: Housing Is a Human Right: Central Library, Sat Jan 30, 7-9 pm, free

Rick Shenkman: How Human Instinct Shapes Elections: Town Hall, Thurs Jan 28, 7:30 pm, \$5

Star Trek Geek Out: A Weekend of Star Trek Revelry: Central Library, Sat Jan 30 from 12-4 pm, Sun Jan 31 from 12-6 pm, free

Sunil Yapa: Elliott Bay Book Company, Sat Jan 30, 7 pm, free

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

FOOD & DRINK

Firefighter Chili Cookoff

DON'T MISS I don't know the exact history of how the words "firefighters" and "chili"

came to be synonymous with each other (though I suspect it has something to do with the multiple-alarm system that indicates the intensity of response to a fire that has now evolved into a signifier of how spicy a chili is). What I do know is that when I read the words "Firefighter Chili Cookoff," I got irrationally excited and started picturing an industrial stove crowded with many bubbling pots of beefy, crimson stew. For this competition, chili made by the best cooks from area firehouses will be served alongside beers donated from local breweries including South Park's Lowercase Brewing and Woodinville's Sumerian Brewing. All proceeds benefit the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters Burn Foundation, which works to prevent burn injuries and improve the lives of burn survivors. (*The Factory Luxe*, Sun Jan 31, 2 pm, \$25) **ANGELA GARBES**

We also recommend...

\$10 Pizza Mondays: Cafe Lago, Mon Feb 1, 5 pm

Belgian Fest: Seattle Center Fisher Pavilion, Sat Jan 30, 12-9:30 pm, \$35

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THINGS TO DO ARTS & CULTURE

Bitches Brew: Miles Davis & Dogfish
Head Beer Tasting: The Barrel Thief, Wed Jan 27, 6-9 pm, free
Caviar Tasting: Seattle Caviar Company, Thurs Jan 28, 5-7 pm, \$30
Chocolate Happy Hour: Chocolopolis, Thurs Jan 28, 5-9 pm, free
Free Wine on 15th: European Vine Selections, Sat Jan 30, 3-6 pm, free
Free Wine Tasting at Champion Wine Cellars: Champion Wine Cellars, Sat Jan 30, 12-5 pm, free
Free Wine Tasting at DeLaurenti: DeLaurenti, Sat Jan 30, 2-4 pm, free
Happy Hour at the Swedish Club: Swedish Cultural Center, Fri Jan 29, 5-10:30 pm
Onibaba Ramen Pop-up: Miyabi 45th, Wed Jan 27, 11:30 am-2 pm
Paella Night: Terra Plata, Mon Feb 1, 5 pm, \$15
Snouts & Stouts: Little Water Cantina, Sun Jan 31, \$17
Speed Rack Season 5: Neumos, Sun Jan 31, 3 pm, \$20, 21+
Sunday Pig Roast: Bell + Whete, Sun Jan 31, 5 pm, \$24
Taco Wednesdays: Roanoke Park Place Tavern, \$1 each, Wed Jan 27, 4 pm-2 am
Tiki Night: Rumba, Wed Jan 27
Wii Wednesdays: Sake Nomi, Wed Jan 20, 6 pm, free

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

ART

You Are on Indigenous Land

DON'T MISS Longhouse Media is a video production company with the goal of empowering and representing indigenous people, and Longhouse is CORE's guest curator this month, presenting mini solo shows by seven Native artists. Melissa Ponder and Tracy Rector, working under the name in•dig•en•ize, assemble a community of portrait photographs; they also wheat-pasted posters around Seattle that say "YOU ARE ON INDIGENOUS LAND," and there's a poster pole marking this gallery, too. Landscapes and animals by Joe 'wahalatsu' Seymour both connect and contrast with Jeffrey Veregge's superheroes rendered in traditional designs. Cheyenne Randall created a large wall mural meant to be color-reversed, and revealed, on Instagram. The biggest surprise is by Shaun Peterson, a video animation of found footage and his own designs that embeds recent histories of abuse and resistance within a Native history that is as long as the moon is old. And all month, Nahaan is running a pop-up tattoo exhibition space focused on indigenous methods of skin stitching, hand poke, and facial markings. There will be blood. (CORE, Wed-Sat, noon-6 pm, free, through Jan 30)

JEN GRAVES

We also recommend...

ART EVENTS

Canoe Social Club: Figure Drawing: Nordo's Culinarium, Wed Jan 27, 6-9 pm, \$10
Critical Issues in Contemporary Art Practice: John Knight: Henry Art Gallery, Thurs Jan 28, 7 pm, free
Mindfulness Meditation at the Frye: Frye Art Museum, Wed Jan 27, 12:30 pm, free

MUSEUMS

The Atomic Frontier: Black Life in Hanford, WA: Northwest African American

Museum, Wed-Sun, \$7, through March 6
Brenna Youngblood: abstracted realities: Seattle Art Museum, Wed-Sun, \$24.95, through April 17

Camp Fires: The Queer Baroque of Léopold L. Foulem, Paul Mathieu, and Richard Milette: Bellevue Arts Museum, \$12, through Feb 14

Constructs: Installations by Asian Pacific American Women Artists: Wing Luke Museum, Tues-Sun, \$14.95, through April 17

Cris Bruch: Others Who Were Here: Frye Art Museum, Jan 30-March 27, free

The Duchamp Effect: Seattle Art Museum, Wed-Sun, \$24.95, through Aug 14

Franz Erhard Walther: The Body Draws: Henry Art Gallery, Wed-Sun, \$10, through March 6

The Harmon & Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art: Works on Paper: Northwest African American Museum, Wed-Sun, \$7, through April 17

Heikki Seppä: Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, daily, free, through Feb 7

James Turrell's Light Reign: Henry Art Gallery, Wed-Sun, \$10

Martha Rosler: Below the Surface: Seattle Art Museum, Wed-Sun, \$24.95, through July 4

Paradox of Place: Contemporary Korean Art: Asian Art Museum, Wed-Sun, \$9, through March 13

Sam Vernon: Olympic Sculpture Park, free, through March 6

GALLERIES

Anne Wilson: Drawings and Objects: James Harris Gallery, Wed-Sat, free, through Feb 13

Bing Wright: Silver/Surface: James Harris Gallery, Wed-Sat, free, through Feb 13

Curtis Steiner: Tobey in Blue: Studio E Gallery, Fri-Sat, free, through Feb 6

EVOLUTION: Art, Science & Adaptation: Seymour Conservatory, Tacoma, Tues-Sun, free, through March 6

The Figure in Process: de Kooning to Kapoor, 1955 - 2015: Pivot Art + Culture, Tues-Sun, \$5, through Feb 28

In Search of Conjunctions: The Alice, Saturday, free, through Feb 27

Joan Tanner: The False Spectator: Suyama Space, Mon-Fri, free, through April 15

Julia Freeman: Quiet Alter: Glass Box Gallery, Wed-Sat, free, through Jan 30

Maggie Carson Romano: Well: Glass Box Gallery, Wed-Sat, free, through Jan 30

Maja Petrić: Studio 99, Redmond, free, through Feb 29

Matika Wilbur: Project 562: The Hibulb Cultural Center and Natural History Preserve, Tulalip, Tues-Sun, \$10, through Jun 11

Matt Sellars: Energie: Platform Gallery, Wed-Sat, free, through Feb 13

Matt Sellars: SUVAIR 2015: Vachon Gallery, Mon-Fri, free, through Feb 11

Michelle de la Vega: SUCCESSION: Gallery4Culture, Jan 27-28, free

The Potato Eaters: Greg Kucera Gallery, Tues-Sat, free, through Feb 20

Rick Araluce: The Great Northern: Mad Art, Wed-Sat, free, through Feb 27

Salt/Water: Photographic Center Northwest, Jan 7-April 3, free

Series, Sets and Stories: Davidson Galleries, Tues-Sat, free, through Jan 30

Sign of the Times: Seattle Presents Gallery, Tuesday, 12-2 pm, free, through March 11

Tim Cross: Linda Hodges Gallery, Tues-Sat, free, through Jan 30

Trimpin: Hear We Are: Winston Wachter Fine Art, Mon-Sat, free, through March 9

Zack Bent: Spires: Seattle Pacific University Art Center Gallery, Mon-Fri, free, through Feb 26

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

THINGS TO DO ARTS & CULTURE

FESTIVALS

Timbrrr! Winter Music Festival

DON'T MISS Taking advantage of the entertainment-industry malaise that infects January, Timbrrr! Winter Music Festival seeks to uplift music lovers in the natural beauty of Leavenworth. The organizers have gone for a nice mélange of acts over two days and nights. Friday's highlights include the sparkling power pop of the Young Evils and the deeply affecting, feel-good indie rock of Fruit Bats. Saturday hits hard with ambitious jazz renegades (and Stranger Genius Award winners) Industrial Revelation and massive soul ensemble Grace Love and the True Loves, who put a Northwestern spin on Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings' energy and bravura technique. (*Leavenworth Festhalle, Jan 29-30, \$30 per day/\$55 for both, 21+*) **DAVE SEGAL**

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

PERFORMANCE

Disgraced

DON'T MISS *Disgraced*, written by Pulitzer Prize winner Ayad Akhtar, is what happens when you throw an intimate dinner party and invite only the most uncomfortable thoughts that people have about race, Islam, cultural appropriation, assimilation, and gender expectations. Amir is a Pakistani-born, atheist lawyer who's trying to climb the ladder at his New York law firm and stay true to his sense of himself. Meanwhile, his wife, Emily, who's white, is trying to use her art—contemporary variations on girih tiles—to highlight the debt the West owes to Islamic thought, and also to convince Amir to reconnect with a culture she thinks he's running away from. Their friends—a big-time Jewish art dealer and a high-powered black lawyer—come over for dinner one night and have an intellectual debate about identity that turns real physical and real raw real quick. Be sure to stay for the audience talk-back, which is nearly as intense as the play. (*Seattle Repertory Theatre, Wed-Sun, \$22-\$90, through Feb 6*) **RICH SMITH**

We also recommend...

THEATER

The Birds: Strawberry Theatre Workshop at 12th Avenue Arts, Thurs-Sat & Mon, 7:30 pm, \$36, through Feb 20

Constellations: Seattle Repertory Theatre, \$34-\$67, through Feb 21

The Last Five Years: Second Story Repertory, Redmond, Thurs-Sat, 8 pm, through Feb 14, \$27

The Motherfucker with the Hat: Washington Ensemble Theatre at 12th Avenue Arts, Fri-Mon, 7:30 pm, \$25, through Feb 1

Riding on a Cloud: On the Boards, Jan 28-31, \$23/\$25

COMEDY

Brett Hamil and Friends: Crocodile, Wed Jan 27, 6:30 pm, free

Comedy Nest Open Mic: Rendezvous, Tues Feb 2, 8 pm, \$5

Paula Poundstone: Pantages Theater, Tacoma, Sat Jan 30, 7:30 pm, \$19-\$59

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

FILM

Hitchcock/Truffaut

DON'T MISS The three indispensable books in my film education are *Fritz Lang* by Lotte Eisner, *Sculpting in Time* by Andrei Tarkovsky, and *Hitchcock* by François Truffaut. The last book has now been made into a documentary called *Hitchcock/Truffaut*. It's directed by Kent Jones, features clips from relevant films, and has really superb interviews with David Fincher, Martin Scorsese, and, best of all, Arnaud Desplechin. The point of the documentary is the point of the great book: Hitchcock was a visual genius of the first order. (*Grand Illusion, Jan 29-Feb 4, \$9*) **CHARLES MUDEDE**

We also recommend...

The 5th Wave: Various locations

45 Years: SIFF Cinema Uptown, Jan 29-31, \$9/\$12

Alice: Scarecrow Video, Wed Jan 27, 7 pm, free

Anomalisa: Guild 45th

The Apple: Central Cinema, Thurs Jan 28, 8 pm, \$8

The Big Short: Various locations

Carol: Various locations

Cartoon Happy Hour: Central Cinema, Thurs Feb 4, 5-7 pm, free

Groundhog Day: Central Cinema, Jan 29-Feb 2, \$8

Heart of a Dog: Grand Illusion, Wed Jan 27, 9 pm, \$9

The January Man: Scarecrow Video, Thurs Jan 28, 7 pm, free

Mustang: Seven Gables

National Theater Live: Les Liaisons Dangereuses: SIFF Cinema Uptown, Jan 28-Feb 1, \$20/\$25

Outdoor Movie Night: Hot Tub Time

Machine: Peddler Brewing Company, Thurs Jan 28, 8 pm, free

The Revenant: Various locations

Ride Along 2: Various locations

The Sprocket Society Presents Saturday Secret Matinees: Grand Illusion, Sat Jan 30, 2 pm

Stunt Rock: Grand Illusion, Jan 28 & 30, \$9

Terror Train: Scarecrow Video, Fri Jan 29, 8 pm, free

World of Kanako: Grand Illusion, Jan 27-28, \$9

Young Frankenstein: Central Cinema, Jan 29-Feb 1, \$5/\$8

Complete listings at strangerthingstodo.com

QUEER

Decadence: Celebrating 1920s Queer Berlin

DON'T MISS Dust off your glossary of 1920s slang, drape yourself in flapper beads, and try not to consider the possibility that there may be an economic crisis looming: It's time for Decadence, a celebration of queer Berlin in the 1920s. Hosted by the avuncular Jeffrey Robert (of Gay Uncle Time), the burlesque show features local fave Bella Lunacy (belly dancing!), Little Bear (bearded lady!), Areola Borealis (fishnet galore!), and more. Proceeds help fund services for homeless youth, so this rub's shaping up to be the cat's meow. (*Neighbours, Sat Jan 30, 8:30 pm, \$10, 21+*) **MATT BAUME**

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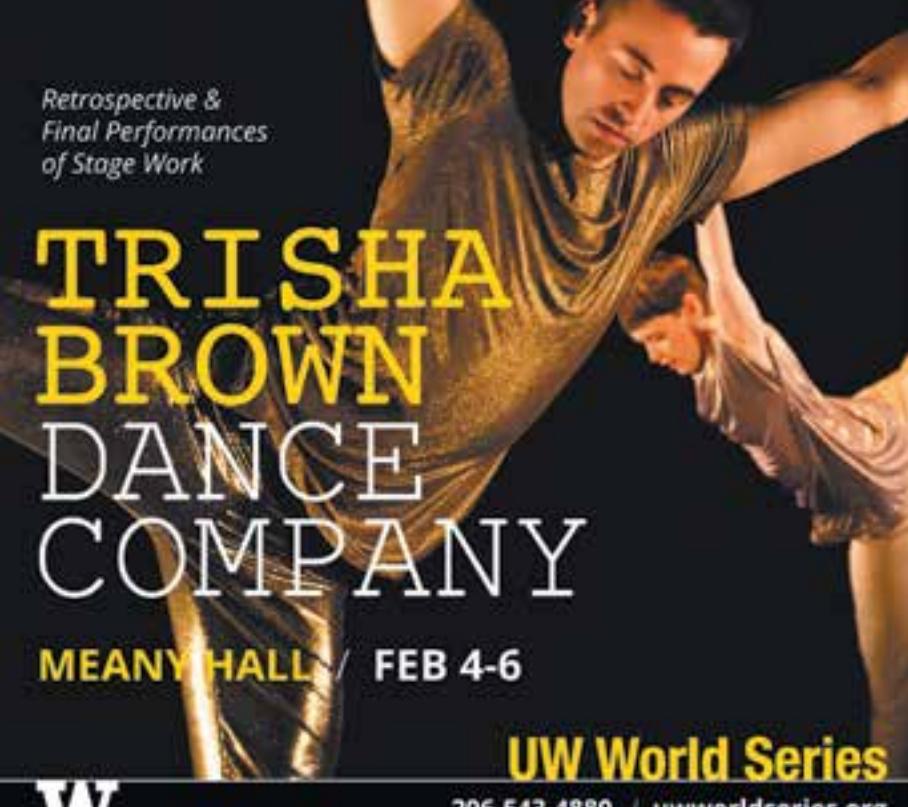
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1/28 THURSDAY		Showbox Presents: Jermaine Fowler All Ages
1/29 FRIDAY		Nolan Garrett Seattle CD Release Dirty Dirty, Greet the Sea, Scarlet Parke All Ages
1/30 SATURDAY		The Crocodile & Da808 Present: Passafire & Ballyhoo! All Ages
1/31 SUNDAY		School of Rock Performs: BEASTIE BOYS All Ages
2/1 MONDAY		Emily King Down North, Moorea Masa All Ages
2/3 WEDNESDAY		The Crocodile & ReignCity Present: Mickey Avalon & Dirt Nasty "Married to the Game Tour" 21+

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THINGS TO DO MUSIC

Noteworthy Shows This Week

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godheadSilo
Fri Jan 29 at Chop Suey

WEDNESDAY 1/27

Nosaj Thing, WD4D, IG88, Thalo

(Q Nightclub) Nosaj Thing, a producer whose driver's license reads Jason Chung, traffics in the same limbs-akimbo beat construction/deconstructed melody contrast as fellow Los Angelenos in the Brainfeeder crew, or the bass-heavy Low End Theory crowd, but with a spacier, icier sheen. His sound has warmed up a bit since debut *Drift*, incorporating moaning, dislocated coos, sparkling chimes, and ghostly synths on 2015's melancholy masterpiece *Fated*. His collaborations with vocalists are particularly rewarding: "Cold Stares," with Chance the Rapper's downcast rhymes riding an eerie, weightless R&B track, is the album's emotional and musical core. Tonight he'll be DJing a sure-to-be-diverse set, along with local experts WD4D, IG88, and Thalo. **KYLE FLECK**

THURSDAY 1/28

Jonas Reinhardt, Panabrite, Monad

(Chapel Performance Space, all ages) It's a rare treat indeed to witness a live Jonas Reinhardt performance. Few people in America have renovated the *kosmische* synth grandiloquence of avatars like Klaus Schulze, Tangerine Dream, and Cluster, and the sinister horror-film tropes of Bernards Fevre and Szajner with Reinhardt's authority. Over six albums (and a split with Abyss of Fathomless Light), Reinhardt has forged one of the most monumental catalogs of spacious electronic music geared for the planetarium. His latest album, *Palace Savant*, takes inspiration from Prague's 14th-century St. Vitus Cathedral. Do a Google Image search of it and grasp the kind of majestic beauty Reinhardt strives for and achieves. Opening are Seattle's most sublime ambient

producer, Panabrite, and Monad (aka Jake Muir), who's releasing his debut full-length, *Muara*, on Further Records in March. It's an impressively immersive chill-out platter, a delicately beautiful stress reliever, and a blissful float in the iciest of aural waters. **DAVE SEGAL**

Purr Gato, Symbion Project, Kodomo, Rocococo

(Re-bar) Symbion Project (Seattle producer Kasson Crooker, making his live debut tonight) has been creating music for 20 years, but somehow has eluded my radar. His 10-track *Semiotic* LP from last year reveals a composer who favors rich, grandiose melodies and easily danceable rhythms. It's the sort of electronic music that's seemingly weaned on a diet of those Synergy records from the 1970s and '80s, but upgraded to 21st-century specs, with

influences from 1990s rave and IDM, in which exuberant melodies commingle with the textural crunchiness. "Phenomena" and "Impulse" are exceptions, being menacing down-tempo creepers with serrated edges in the vein of *Mezzanine*-era Massive Attack and Tipper's distorted-bass-heavy approach. Crooker's ambitious production flourishes are worth following, and his entrance to the live arena—reputedly bolstered by spectacular visuals—seems long overdue. (The first 50 people through the door receive a free download of *Semiotic*.) **DAVE SEGAL**

The Spider Ferns, Erik Blood, Midday Veil, DJ Explorateur

(Chop Suey) What a smart lineup of local atmospheric, hazed, and slightly dazed sounds! Openers Midday Veil, of course, will continue their exploration into 1980s

Continued ▶

THINGS TO DO MUSIC

electronic and progressive sound paintings. Tho', live, I've heard MV kinda developing something of a mannered and contemporary take on early-'70s prog group Curved Air. And then there is Erik Blood. His music is eclectic and massive; to me, he always sounds like he's performing a soundtrack for a movie with no dialogue. Headliners are the late-'80s death-rock/goth-pop-intoned duo Spider Ferns, who are celebrating the release of their new EP, *Safety*. And betwixt live sets you can hear the mighty adept selections of DJ Explorateur. **MIKE NIPPER**

Certain Creatures, Nathaniel Young, Raj

(Kremwerk) *Vipassana*, Certain Creatures' recent debut on the Styles Upon Styles imprint, manages the easier-said-than-done task of splitting the difference between monochromatic post-punk, power noise, and blippy, acid-warped techno. It's a mesmerizingly hard-edged record, packed to the brim with industrial buzzing, concrete-boot kick drums, and, most rewardingly, Oliver Chapoy's own powerful and haunting vocals on a few tracks. One can think of no finer match for the bomb-shelter aesthetic of Kremwerk than the clank and crunch of Chapoy's best work, like the detuned synth ballad "Colour Me In" or the grinding, paranoid "Je Est Un Autre." Opening things up will be analog revivalist/Blankstairs founder Nathaniel Young and Seattle's own Raj. **KYLE FLECK**

Behavior, Vacant Life, Nudes, Nasti, Vats

(Vera, all ages) No matter how watered

down the image of punk rock may be in 2016, it's important to see past the gimmick and force yourself to glance at the grimy underbelly where labels like Iron Lung Records strive to showcase true underground noise—and do a damn fine job of it. One of Iron Lung's newest releases, *375 Images of Angels*, is by a Los Angeles-based band called Behavior, who play a fierce style of punk that could be best described by dosing a post-*Damaged*-era Black Flag LP with a healthy chunk of Wipers. It's raw and in your face, but oddly catchy—the way it ought to be. **KEVIN DIERS**

Nu Era, All Star Opera, Sleep Steady, DJ Nphared

(Sunset) As far as local rap crews go, Nu Era's certainly put in the work, and after years of hustle, the group is celebrating the release of their best work yet: *Armadilla Lexus*, a fantastic slice of new-school flows and forward-thinking productions. From the melodic stutters of opener "Rose Garden" to the ragged, jagged analog synths on "Rise Up," the foursome have crafted a diverse and high-definition sonic palette for their tales of low-key scheming, lyrical prowess, and bittersweet reminiscences. Add in guest spots by everyone from conscious homie RA Scion, fire-breather Thaddeus David, and it-rapper of the moment DoNormaal, and you've got a strong contender for those year-end lists we're all looking forward to now that we've made it to 2016. **KYLE FLECK**

FRIDAY 1/29

godheadSilo, Corey J. Brewer

(Chop Suey, all ages) Here's a theory: All guitarists want to be bass players. They down-tune, add additional strings, or employ octave generators to hit those chest-thumping notes. And yes, sometimes they can fill out the low end to the point where a bassist seems almost unnecessary, but it still sounds like something is missing. To be fair, all bass players want to be guitarists, though they have a better track record at filling the sonic space without their six-string allies. Look at Lightning Bolt, Big Business, Thrones, or the godfathers of bass-driven sludge punk: godheadSilo. Armed with a wall of amps and disproportionately large drums, the bass-and-drums duo fuzzed and howled through the 1990s, then disappeared at the close of the decade. Tonight they're back, and you might as well pawn your guitars now. **BRIAN COOK**

Unknown Mortal Orchestra, Lower Dens, Hibou

(Neptune, all ages) Unknown Mortal Orchestra's third album, *Multi-Love*, is the kind of cultural artifact that's so out of step with the times that it's timeless (only the references to smartphones give the game away). The muted trumpet on "Necessary Evil" and slick saxophone on "Extreme Wealth and Casual Cruelty" evoke 1980s fern bars filled with wine-cooler-sipping Patrick Nagel collectors in designer polo shirts. Not exactly the hippest reference point, but founder Ruban Nielson knows how to turn unfashionable tropes on their head. On other tracks, his Portland trio recalls Michael Jackson circa *Off the Wall*, or Scritti Politti circa *Cupid & Psyche* 85. It's a kaleidoscopic dance record in which sunshine pop, paisley

funk, and chrome-plated jazz coalesce into an irresistible whole. **KATHY FENNESSY**

Godspeed You! Black Emperor

(Neumos, all ages, also 1/30) The substantial, enduring popularity of Godspeed You! Black Emperor proves that music fans have greater attention spans than pundits usually give credit them for. GY!BE's *raison d'être* is to create orchestral epics in loose song form. Lacing their sweeping drone-rock suites with anti-imperialist spoken-word messages and pointed, elliptical film dialogue, GY!BE shift from tense tranquility to grave turbulence with a masterly sense of drama. From 1997's *F#A# (Infinity)* to 2015's *Asunder, Sweet and Other Distress* (perhaps their hardest rocking release), they've rarely wavered from their MO of ratcheting up tension to nearly unbearable levels and then decrescendoing into contemplative meandering. Their loyal, large, high-IQ fan base ain't complaining, and the band's been rewarded with a two-night stand at Neumos. **DAVE SEGAL**

Jessica Lea Mayfield, Matt Batey

(Fremont Abbey, all ages) I want to write that Jessica Lea Mayfield writes music for rainy days, but I keep second-guessing myself. Is every song a rainy-day song in this drizzly Seattle January world? If I was listening to, like, TLC right now, would my warped sense of winter reality convince me it sounded like drinking coffee indoors and pulling up your hood before putting on headphones to brave the half-light and subdued drizzle? Maybe. But there is a beautiful moody fog in the Ohio singer-songwriter's sometimes country, sometimes grungey rock music. Her originals, which she'll play solo on this tour, are wistfully romantic in their sparse, tasteful instrumentation, full of pretty longing and tinged with vague, tender sadness emitted through

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A poster for The Arcs. At the top is a large, stylized skull with two faces facing each other. The skull is surrounded by a variety of colorful flowers, including roses and poppies. Below the skull is the band's name, "THE ARCS", in a large, bold, blocky font. The letters are primarily white with blue and red outlines. Underneath the name is the text "THE NEW PROJECT FROM DAN AUERBACH OF THE BLACK KEYS" in a smaller, bold, yellow font. Below that, it says "special guest MARIACHI FLOR de TOLOACHE". At the bottom, it says "APRIL 12 • THE MOORE" in a large, bold, yellow font. To the left, there is promotional text for their new album: "NEW ALBUM YOURS, DREAMILY, OUT NOW". To the right, it says "TICKETS ON SALE FRIDAY AT 10AM" and "THEARCS.COM". The bottom of the poster features logos for the Seattle Theatre Group (STG) and the Moore Theatre.

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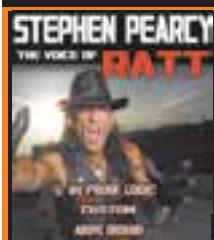
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THINGS TO DO MUSIC

Mayfield's dreamily entralling voice and poetic lyrics that she's been perfecting since her first recording as a 15-year-old Foo Fighters fan. She even recorded a full album of Elliott Smith covers with one of the Avett Brothers dudes—how rainy is that? **ROBIN EDWARDS**

SATURDAY 1/30

Reflection Eternal, Pharoahe Monch

(Showbox, all ages) With the Rawkus Records-led wave of late-'90s East Coast conscious rap spilling into the 2000s, Talib Kweli and Hi-Tek released the moment-defining *Train of Thought* under the group name Reflection Eternal. Tek's warm, waxy soul takes coupled with Kweli's word-dense storytelling produced a near-perfect mix of social commentary and engrossing rhythm. A decade later, after the crumbling of Rawkus, notable Kweli cosigns from Jay Z, and successful outside collaborations, the two came back together to release the 2010 follow-up, *Revolutions Per Minute*. Though *RPM* found them somewhat blending into the scene they helped create, they were still able to hit high notes like the allegorical "Got Work," and the hookless "Long Hot Summer." I'd say come for the classics (and Pharoahe Monch!), and look forward to being pleasantly surprised by their newer revelations. **TODD HAMM**

Mommy Long Legs, Wimps, Boyfriends

(Columbia City Theater) Mommy Long Legs! Boyfriends! Wimps! I wanna doodle all their names in Sharpie in bubble letters on my beat-up Converse shoes. The fiercely funny, brightly-colored-wig-wearing feminists in Mommy Long Legs call out catcallers and

yuppie moms and that garbage human/offensive guy we all know trying to be funny with snarling, distorted guitars and gleeful, howling gang vocals. Ripped straight from the pages of *Tiger Beat*, Seattle's dreamiest all-boy band Boyfriends sing bop-along pop songs that will make you swoon with their groovy bass lines, feminist subject matter ("Future Is Female" is a total hit), and on-point fashion choices. Kill Rock Stars superstars Wimps will round out the bill with totally catchy, classic punk songs about being the old guy at the party and living in dumpy punk houses. This lineup is all killer and no filler. **ROBIN EDWARDS**

Don McGreevy's Temporal Nature of Stability, Timm Mason

(Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, all ages) Branching out from his avant-rock duties as drummer for Master Musicians of Bukkake and bassist for Earth and Mississippi blues interpretations of Yada Yada Blues Band, Don McGreevy has composed a symphonic piece that, in his words, "is intended to impress upon listeners an awareness of our synthetic biologic imprint for succeeding generations." His Sulphuric Symphony consists of some of Seattle's foremost instrumentalists, including Wayne Horvitz, David Golightly, Chris Martin, Kimberly Morrison, Naomi Siegel, and Dave Abramson. They'll be performing what McGreevy calls "a post-minimalist symphonic piece" that evokes the tragic poisoning of unsuspecting citizens of Pripyat after the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. It's written for electric guitars and basses, acoustic upright basses, trombones, bass clarinet, organs, and percussion. While you're at it,

check out McGreevy's majestically morose masterpiece, *Aichmophobia*. **DAVE SEGAL**

SUNDAY 1/31

Sō Percussion

(Meany Hall, all ages) Highbrow musicians who can generate fun are a rarity. One example are Sō Percussion, a phenomenally inventive avant-garde quartet of percussionists who combine intricate rhythmic interplay with whimsical abandon and a predilection for quirky tonalities. Those traits made them perfect collaborators for experimental-electronic duo Matmos, as evidenced on their joint 2010 album *Treasure State*, which is a cornucopia of advanced-music-geek fun. For tonight's program, Sō Percussion train their rigorous skills on some old classics (Steve Reich's *Mallet Quartet*, John Cage's *Third Construction*) and daring works by relative newcomers to the avant realm (Glenn Kotche's *Drum Kit Quartet #51*, Bryce Dessner's *Music for Wood and Strings*). It's going to be quite the kaleidoscope of fascinating rhythms. **DAVE SEGAL**

Turntable Sundae: Deadmics, more

(The Upstairs) Rapper Deadmics sounds as though he spent his formative years devouring every Sage Francis bootleg he could get his hands on, with the sort of open-mic/spoken-word delivery so prevalent among backpack rappers at the turn of the millennium. It's a very specific sound, and one that frankly sounds dated in the year of our lord 2016, but I'm sure there's still a contingent of righteous and indignant underground rap folks who can get down with it. The production's the predictable-though-welcome mélange of soul licks and boom bap one can expect from a Rhymesayer devotee, all R&B pianos, reconstituted vocal hooks, and old-school breaks. Like I said, there's still an

audience for this stuff: If you count yourself among them, you're already hip to this show. **KYLE FLECK**

MONDAY 2/1

The great Exene Cervenka turns 60 today.

TUESDAY 2/2

AC/DC

(Tacoma Dome, all ages) I promised myself I wouldn't be one of those people who rush to go see a band because a founding member might die. That mentality treats performing artists like baseball cards. It's juvenile. Then Lemmy and David Bowie died, and I rushed out to buy an AC/DC ticket. Better think of some reasons to see Australia's finest besides "It might be my last chance." Here goes: AC/DC are not only electric blues taken to its minimalist and populist extreme, but also the precise crossroads of punk, rock, heavy metal, and pop music. Good enough? Also, "Hells Bells" is still one of the finest introductions to a record ever put to tape. **JOSEPH SCHAFER**

Aurelio Martinez

(Jazz Alley, all ages, Feb 2-3) Aurelio Martinez is a man of many hats: percussion virtuoso, natural songwriter, gifted singer, even politician—he was the first black member of the National Congress of Honduras. The sound on his record, *Laru Beya*, mixed the sound of his Garifuna background with other Afro-Caribbean and even American influences, resulting in celebratory and sprawling tracks that incorporated other African music legends like Youssou N'Dour and Senegalese rapper Sen Kumpé. His latest album, the critically lauded *Landini*, represents a stripped-down, purely Garifuna-oriented sound, a form of folk music as celebratory as it is mournful. **KYLE FLECK**



KISS OFF

WED 01/27	HAUS OF KEEBLER PRESENTS	TAINTED TALES : #CATFISHED / HOSTED BY ABBEY ROADS & SHELITA POTROAST
WED 01/27	KARAOKE WEDNESDAYS	KARAOKE WITH HAUS OF KEEBLER / HOSTED BY ABBEY ROADS / MUSHMO APP
THUR 01/28	GROUNDIE PRESENTS	CERTAIN CREATURES (NY/LIVE/STYLES UPON STYLES) / NATHANIEL YOUNG / RAJ
FRI 01/29	"NICE TRY" PARTY	FAILED NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FT. HYDEF / MIBBITZ / BORSIA / PAUL DUTTON
SAT 01/30	KREMWERK PRESENTS KINGS	A DRAG KING SHOW / "DRESS TO IMPRESS" THEME / WINNER GETS CASH PRIZE
SAT 01/30	KISS OFF : DECADENCE BALL	QUEER WOMEN'S MONTHLY / DJ RICKI LEIGH / MIZ ARTIZ / JULIA PLANETARIO
WED 02/03	KARAOKE WEDNESDAYS	KARAOKE WITH HAUS OF KEEBLER / HOSTED BY ABBEY ROADS / MUSHMO APP
THUR 02/04	MOTOR PRESENTS	PATRICIA (OPAL TAPES, NYC) / SMC / APARTMENT FOX / DJ SLOW / MORE TBA
FRI 02/05	RESEARCH PRESENTS	JOEY ANDERSON / MYTHE / CODY MORRISON B2B CAROL RUIZ / MURDOC

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EVERY MONDAY: MO JAM

- 2.12 MOTOPONY
- 2.13 ONRY OZZBORN + P.O.S.
- 2.14 CHASTITY BELT
- 2.18 HAPPY ORCHESTRA/ INDUSTRIAL REVELATION
- 2.19 DEAD PREZ
- 2.20 RABBIT WILDE (LP RELEASE)
- 2.23 SCARFACE
- 2.24 EARPHUNK
- 2.25 BLADES-SKERIK-COE
- 2.26 DEADPHISH ORCHESTRA
- 2.28 BEACON / NATASHA KMETO
- 3.4 MARK FARINA
- 3.5 DEAD WINTER CARPENTERS
- 3.6 PROTOJE
- 3.10 YO MAMA'S BIG FAT BOOTY BAND
- 3.11 YPPAH / MANATEE COMMUNE
- 3.12 CLINTON FEARON
- 3.18 DIMOND SAINTS
- 3.19 JAI HO! HOLI HAI
- 3.20 RED BARAAT
- 3.24 SKERIK'S BANDALABRA
- 3.26 ETHAN TUCKER
- 3.29 MOBB DEEP
- 3.31 THE MAIN SQUEEZE
- 4.1 THE MOTHER HIPS
- 4.2 BOWIEVISION
- 4.7 ONRY OZZBORN
- 4.8 QUANTIC (LIVE BAND)
- 4.15 OZRIC TENTACLES
- 4.16 BRENT AMAKER & THE RODEO
- 4.22 LYRICS BORN
- 5.27 POLECAT / POOR MAN'S WHISKEY

NEPTUNE
1303 NE 45TH ST

NEXT WEEK! FEBRUARY 3
MIKE GORDON

NEXT WEEK! FRI FEBRUARY 5
DR. DOG
WITH HOP ALONG

NEXT WEEK! SAT FEBRUARY 6
SUPER FURRY ANIMALS
WITH DEAD MEADOW

FEBRUARY 8
PUSSY RIOT:
FEMINIST PUNK
AND THE POLICE STATE

FRI FEBRUARY 19
AN EVENING WITH
MATISYAHU
LIVE AT STUBBS III: PART 2

FEBRUARY 21
THE THREE-HEADED MONS TOUR
HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS
MEST AND THE ATARIS
WITH HANDGUNS AND LONDON FALLING

FRI MARCH 2
CIRCA '06 TOUR PT. II
VINCE STAPLES

FRI MARCH 11
JUNIOR BOYS
WITH JESSY LANZA AND BORYS

MARCH 15
AN EVENING WITH
DAVID CROSBY

ON SALE FRI AT 10AM
MARCH 16 | SEATED SHOW
WELL-STRUNG

MARCH 17
YONDER MOUNTAIN
STRING BAND
WITH POLECAT

FRI MARCH 18
GEOFF TATE'S
OPERATION:MINDCRIME
THE ORIGINAL LEAD SINGER OF QUEENSRYCHE

SAT MARCH 26
THAO & THE
GET DOWN STAY DOWN
WITH CAR SEAT HEADREST

MARCH 28
AN EVENING WITH
STEVE HACKETT

MARCH 30
YUNG LEAN

MARCH 31
POLICA
WITH CLARA-NOVA

APRIL 12
GEORGE CLINTON &
PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC

JUST ADDED!
ON SALE FRI AT 10AM
APRIL 13
THE RESIDENTS
PRESENT
SHADOWLAND
THEORY OF OBSCURITY SHOWING + CONCERT

SAT APRIL 16
PARACHUTE
WITH JON MC LAUGHLIN

APRIL 21
RHYE

FRI APRIL 22
CLOUD CULT

ON SALE FRI AT 10AM
SAT MAY 14
CASPAR BABYPANTS

MAY 18
NADA SURF

ON SALE NOW!

STICK FIGURE | FEB 4
JACK & JACK | FEB 9
JOHN WATERS | FEB 14
RAILROAD EARTH | FEB 25
AMERICAN FOOTBALL | FEB 26
LAKE STREET DIVE | MAR 3
ANIMAL COLLECTIVE | MAR 4
ANI DIFRANCO | MAR 6 • BEN RECTOR | MAR 12
TANYA TAGAQ | APR 6
SOUND OPINIONS | MAY 13

ON SALE NOW!

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TANYA TAGAQ | APR 6
SOUND OPINIONS | MAY 13

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NEPTUNE
EST. 1929
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MONQUIL
PRESENTS

INTO THE DEEP
GALACTIC
FRI FEB 26 • THE SHOWBOX

EMMY THE GREAT
MARCH 2 • BARBOZA

ON SALE FRIDAY

THE WAINWRIGHT SISTERS
FEATURING MARTHA WAINWRIGHT & LUCY ROCHE
MARCH 7 • TRACTOR TAVERN

BEN OTTEWELL
(OF GOMEZ)
SAT MAR 12 • TRACTOR TAVERN

LISSIE
SAT APRIL 2 • COLUMBIA CITY THEATER

ON SALE FRIDAY

GIN WIGMORE
APRIL 27 • NEOMOS

ON SALE FRIDAY

THE SUBWAYS
APRIL 27 • TRACTOR TAVERN

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SPECIAL GUEST JONATHAN TYLER

MARCH 28
THE MOORE

TICKETS ON SALE FRI AT 10AM



The Rat City Rollergirls are a Seattle institution. Opening their 12th season this month, they continue to embrace an entrepreneurial, ass-kicking, feminist body positive spirit and put on the best beer drinking, family friendly, rowdiest show around. Their four home teams the Sockit Wenchies, The Derby Liberation Front, Throttle Rockets and Grave Danger battle it out every year for first place. Everyone is gunning to knock The Derby Liberation front from the top for the third year in a row. Come see the drama unfold February 13th at the Rat's Nest, Doors open at 4:30, bout begins at 5:30pm.

www.ratcityrollergirls.com

2/13 - Season 12 Home Team Bout 2
5:30 pm at The Rat's Nest
Throttle Rockets vs Derby Liberation Front
Grave Danger vs Sockit Wenchies

2/27 - Washington State Conference Bout 2
5:30 pm at The Rat's Nest
Rat City vs Jet City

THINGS TO DO MUSIC

All the Shows Happening This Week

strangerthingstodo.com [@SEAshows](#)

★ = Recommended A = All Ages

WED 1/27

LIVE MUSIC

● 88 KEYS Musicians' Jam: Jens Gunnroe, guests, 8 pm, free

AQUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben Fleck, 6 pm, free

BARBOZA The Good Wives, Timothy Robert Graham, Keaton Collective, 8 pm, \$8

BUCKLEY'S IN BELLTOWN Live Music: Guests, 8 pm

DARRELL'S TAVERN Open Mic: Guests, 9 pm, free

● FIX COFFEEHOUSE Open Mic: Guests, 7 pm, free

HIGH DIVE Shawn Smith, guests

HIGHLINE Littlefoot, CRV, Night Cadet, Camp, 9 pm

HIGHWAY 99 Black Clouds Blues Band, 8 pm, \$7

J&M CAFE The Lonnie Williams Band, 8 pm, free

KELLS Liam Gallagher

NECTAR Ayron Jones, Whitney Monge, 8 pm

OHANA Live Island Music

OWL N' THISTLE Justin and Guests: 9 pm, free

PARAGON Two Buck Chuck, 8 pm, free

SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB Open Mic: 8:30 pm, free

SOUND CHECK BAR & GRILL Open Mic: Guests, 8 pm

SUNSET TAVERN Hælos, 9 pm, \$12

TRACTOR TAVERN Pampa, Dark Hip Falls, Pale Noise, 8 pm, \$8

VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Ben Von Wildenhaus, 9 pm

JAZZ

★ ● JAZZ ALLEY Herb Alpert and Lani Hall, Through Jan 28, 7:30 pm, \$49.50

SARAJEVO LOUNGE Gypsy Jazz Music: 8 pm

DJ

● BALTIC ROOM Bollocks: Guests

● CENTURY BALLROOM Bachata Intro Lesson & Dance: Swing Intro Lesson & Dance: 9 pm, \$8, 9 pm, \$8

CHOP SUEY Too Many Creeps! In the Den: DJ Kate, DJ Mike Steve, 9 pm, \$3

CONTOUR NuDe Weds: Guests, 9 pm, free

FOUNDATION Victor Niglio, Riot Ten, 10 pm, \$8.21

HAVANA Wicked & Wild: DJ SoulOne, ZJ Redman, Selecta Element, free; \$5 after 10 pm.

NEIGHBOURS Exposed: DJ Trent Von, DJ Dirty Bit

● ● NIGHTCLUB Nosaj Thing, WD4D, IG88, Thalo, 9 pm

STUDIO SEVEN Electric Wednesday: Guests

CLASSICAL

● ● BENAROYA HALL A Concert To Mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day: Music of Remembrance, 5 pm

● ● MCCAW HALL The Marriage of Figaro: Seattle Opera, \$25-\$193

VERMILLION Two Star Symphony, 9 pm

THURS 1/28

LIVE MUSIC

AQUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben

Fleck, 6 pm, free

BARBOZA Dreamcatchr, Trick Candles, P.S., 8 pm, \$8

CENTRAL SALOON Pick Axe Preacher, 9 pm, \$5

★ ● CHAPEL

PERFORMANCE SPACE Jonas Reinhardt, Panabrite, Monadh, 8 pm, \$10

● CHOP SUEY The Spider Ferns, Erik Blood, Midday Veil, DJ Explorateur, 8 pm, \$7/\$10

● COLUMBIA CITY THEATER The Best Open Mic Ever: Guests, 7:30 pm, free, Moraine, Nosretep, Super-Z Attack Team, 8 pm, \$8

CONOR BYRNE Brendan and the Strangest Ways, the Road, Twin Lion, 8 pm, \$5

● DOWPOUR BREWING Open Mic Night: Guests

● EDMONDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS Travis Tritt, 7:30 pm, \$49-\$59

EL CORAZON The Cussers, the Botherations, 9:30 pm, \$7

GHOSTFISH BREWING COMPANY George Grissom, 6 pm

HIGH DIVE Golden Idols, Stucky & the Boys, Waking Things, Breakaway Derringer, \$6/\$8

● J&M CAFE True Romans, 8 pm, free

● JAMTOWN Afro Latino Drum and Rhythm Circle/ Class: 7 pm

KELLS Liam Gallagher

● ● KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Ladysmith Black Mambazo, 8 pm, \$45

VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Kate Olson Group, Casey MacGill, 5:30 pm

Fleck, 6 pm, free

BARBOZA Dreamcatchr, Trick Candles, P.S., 8 pm, \$8

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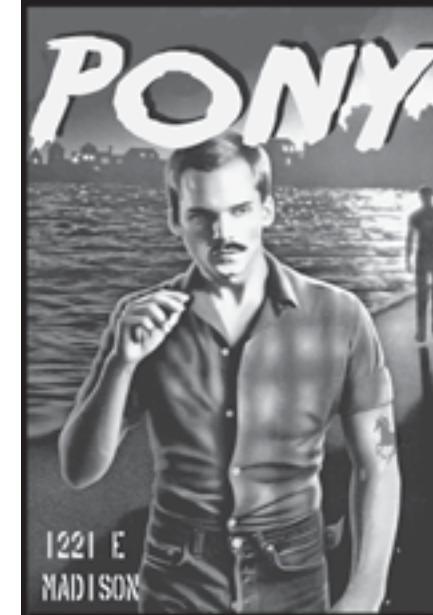
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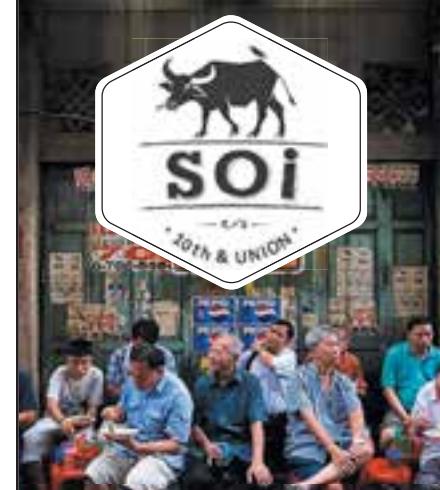
VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Kate Olson Group, Casey MacGill, 5:30 pm



MON-THU 5PM TO 2AM

FRI-SUN 3PM TO 2AM

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LEVI, DAYLAN, & AL
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Fri 1/29

GEORGE GRISSOM

Sat 1/30

BILLY BRANDT
(Jazz/Blues)

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Open-Mic hosted by Levi Said

Every Wednesday
Two Buck Chuck

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DRUNK OF THE WEEK



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DAVID!

In this New to Town issue, I'd like to wish a very happy birthday to a fella who's actually *old to town*, David B. A Seattle native and longtime resident, David (left) moved to New York City a few years ago. He recently came back to Seattle to celebrate his "Fagulous 50," and many old friends were overjoyed. Some of his friends got so overjoyed at the party, they had to call in sick to work the next day! Anyway, happy birthday! Remember: You CAN go home again. **KELLY O**

KELLY O

Not affiliated with any other business

THURS, 1/28 - SUN, 1/31

DINO ARCHIE

Dino Archie was the winner of the 2015 Seattle International Comedy Competition. Most recently, Dino's worked with Reggie Watts, Hannibal Buress and toured with Chris D'elia on the "Under No Influence Tour". Previously, he's performed at the Northwest Comedy Fest and Pemberton Music/Comedy Fest. Dino's debut comedy album *Choosy Lover* is on iTunes and has been featured on comedyhype.com.



THE COMEDY UNDERGROUND

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THINGS TO DO All the Shows Happening This Week

JAZZ

★ **BARCA** Jazz at Barca: Phil Sparks Trio, Adam Kessler, guests, 9 pm, free
DARRELL'S TAVERN Ellie's Birthday Bash: Delvon Lamarr, the 350s, 9 pm, \$5
★ ◊ **JAZZ ALLEY** Her Alpert and Lani Hall, Through Jan 28, 7:30 pm, \$49.50
OSTERIA LA SPIGA Jazz at La Spiga: Guests, 7 pm
PINK DOOR Bric-a-Brac: 8 pm
◊ **SHUGA JAZZ BISTRO** Chris James Quartet, 7 pm, free

DJ

BALLROOM Throwback Thursdays: DJ Tamm of KISS fm, 9 pm
BALTIC ROOM Sugar Beat: DJ Bret Law, 3 pm
CENTURY BALLROOM Kizomba: 9:30 pm, \$8
CONTOUR Jaded: Guests
★ **HAVANA** Sophisticated Mama: DJ Nitty Gritty, DJ Sad Bastard, free
JAZZBONES College Night: DJ Christyle, 9 pm
MERCURY Isolation: DJ Coldheart, \$3
NEIGHBOURS Revolution: DJ Marty Mar, Michael Kutt
OHANA '80s Ladies Night: **PONY** Medical Records RX - Wax and Wav: Guests, 9 pm
◊ **NIGHTCLUB** Will Clarke, Billy Kenny, 9 pm, \$11
PLACE Thirsty Thursdays: DJ Flow
THERAPY LOUNGE Therapy Sessions: EJ Franco, Matson, 10 pm
TRINITY Beer Pong Thursdays: Deaf!N!t, Chris Herrera, Christyle, free

CLASSICAL

★ ◊ **MCCAW HALL** The Marriage of Figaro: Seattle Opera, \$25-\$193
SUBSTATION Either/Or, These People Here, Soft Blows, 8 pm, \$10/\$12
SUNSET TAVERN The Eagle Rock Gospel Singers, the Lonely Mountain Lovers, 9 pm, \$10
◊ **THIRD PLACE**
COMMONS Chris Stevens & the Surf Monkeys, 7:30 pm
TM'S TAVERN Blumeadows, Thunder Knife, Hammers Knot, Asra, \$7
TRACTOR TAVERN Bright Lights Social Hour, James Supercave, Goodbye Heart, 9 pm, \$10
◊ **UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND** Cultural Heritage Choir, 7:30 pm, \$6, Cultural Heritage Choir, 7:30 pm, \$6
VICTORY LOUNGE Paralyzer, Pushy, Donzis, 9 pm, \$8
VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Casey MacGill, 8 pm
◊ **WASHINGTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS** Travis Tritt, 7:30 pm, \$28-\$65

FRI 1/29

LIVE MUSIC

88 KEYS Dueling Piano Show: 8 pm, free
◊ **AMANDINE BAKESHOP** Friday Lounge: Beanone
AQUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben Fleck, 6 pm, free
BLUE MOON TAVERN Northern Shakedown, Pico BLVD, Ska-T, 8 pm, \$5
CAFE RACER Neon Culpa, 9 pm
CHINA HARBOR Orquesta la Solucion, 9:30 pm, \$15
★ ◊ **CHOP SUEY** godhead-Silo, 8 pm, \$15
COLUMBIA CITY THEATER Date Night with Rocky's Revival
CONOR BYRNE Left Coast Country, Colonels of Truth, the Crossroads Exchange, 9 pm, \$8
CROCODILE Nolan Garrett, Dirty Dirty, Greet the Sea, Scarlet Parke, 8 pm, \$10
EL CORAZON Sausage Slapper, Hell Camano, Nasty Bits, Zombie Jihad
★ ◊ **FREMONT ABBEY** Jessica Lea Mayfield, Matt Batey, 8 pm, \$15/\$18
HIGH DIVE Red Heart Alarm, In Cahoots, Annie O'Neill, \$8/\$10
HIGHWAY 99 Hank Shreve, 8 pm, \$16
◊ **JAZZ ALLEY** Bobby Caldwell and His R&B Band, 7:30 pm, \$34.50
◊ **KENT-MERIDIAN PERFORMING ARTS CENTER** Lulu Reinhardt, Mike Dawes, Andre Krenzel, Brian Gore, 7:30 pm, \$15-\$28
★ **LEAVENWORTH FESTHALLA** Timbrrrr! Winter Music Festival: \$30 per day/\$55 for both, Benjamin Verdoes, 5:45 pm, Fine Prince, 6:45 pm, the Young Evils, 7:45 pm, Lee Bob & the Truth, 8:50 pm, Iska Daaf, 9:55 pm, Fruit Bats, 11 pm
LITTLE RED HEN Wes Jones Band, 9 pm, \$3
NECTAR Sir Mix-A-Lot, guests, Through Jan 29, 8 pm, \$20

JAZZ

CENTURY BALLROOM Valse Cafe Orchestra, Dina Blade, guests, 8:30 pm, \$50/\$60
THE ROYAL ROOM Django's Birthday Party: The Djangomatics, Ranger and the Re-Arrangers, Neil Andersson, 8:30 pm
CONOR BYRNE Left Coast Country, Colonels of Truth, the Crossroads Exchange, 9 pm, \$8
CROCODILE Nolan Garrett, Dirty Dirty, Greet the Sea, Scarlet Parke, 8 pm, \$10
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NECTAR Sir Mix-A-Lot, guests, Through Jan 29, 8 pm, \$20
JAZZBONES Filthy Fridays: Guests, 11 pm, \$10
LO-FI DJ Turk, Paco
NEIGHBOURS Absolut Fridays: DJ Richard Dalton, DJ Trent Von, 9 pm
OHANA DJ Night: Guests, 10 pm, free
OZZIE'S DJ Night: Guests, 9 pm, free
PARLIAMENT TAVERN DJ Plantkiller, 8 pm

THINGS TO DO All the Shows Happening This Week

NIGHTCLUB

Chocolate Puma, guests, 10 pm, \$15

◊ **PLACE** Swollen Fridays: 9 pm

STOUT DJ ePop, 9 pm

THE CARLILE ROOM Maxwell Edison, 10 pm

THERAPY LOUNGE Under Pressure: 9:30 pm, \$3 after 10:30 p.m.

TRINITY Fridays at Trinity: Guy, VSOP, Tyler and DJ Phase

CLASSICAL

★ ◊ **MCCAW HALL** The Marriage of Figaro: Seattle Opera, \$25-\$193

◊ **UW MEANY STUDIO**

THEATER Inverted Space New Music Ensemble, 7:30 pm, \$10

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Love Dealers, 7 pm
• CROCODILE School of Rock Performs Beastie Boys: School of Rock, 2 pm, \$12, Verbal Tip, 6:30 pm
• EDMONDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS A Taste of the Taste
• EL CORAZON Powerman 5000, Jaded Mary, Enzian, 7 pm, \$14/\$16
KELLS Liam Gallagher
LITTLE RED HEN Open Mic Acoustic Jam with Bodacious Billy: Guests, 4 pm, the Honky Tonkers, 9 pm, \$5
LO-FI Lonesome Rhodes, Charlie and the Rays, Kangaroo Boy
NECTAR Sir Mix-A-Lot, guests, 8 pm, \$20
• SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB All Ages Open Mic: Last 4-7 pm, free
• SONIC BOOM RECORDS Danny Newcomb & the Sugarmakers, 4 pm
TIM'S TAVERN Kirsten Silva's Seattle Songwriter Showcase: Guests
TRACTOR TAVERN Marlon Williams, Shelley Short, 8 pm, \$12
★ THE UPSTAIRS Turntable Sundae: Deadmics, guests, 7 pm
• VERA PROJECT Trae the Truth, Slim Jesus, 7 pm, \$16-\$50

JAZZ
THE ANGRY BEAVER The Beaver Sessions: Guests, free
DARELL'S TAVERNS Sunday Night Jazz Jam: Guests, 8 pm, free
PONY Fruit: DJ Toast, 9 pm, free
• HARISSA Sunday Bossa Nova: Dina Blade, 6 pm, free
OSTERIA LA SPIGA Jazz at La Spiga: Guests, 7 pm
• THE ROYAL ROOM Woman of Tokyo: Wayne Horvitz, guests, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$12
SHUGA JAZZ BISTRO Shuga Sundays: Eric Verlinde, guests, 7:30 pm
★ • TULA'S Jim Cuter Jazz Orchestra, 7:30 pm, \$8
★ VITO'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE Ruby Bishop, 6 pm, free, the Ron Weinstein Trio, 9:30 pm, free

DJ
BALTIC ROOM Resurrection Sundays: DJ Shane, Jade's Pain, 10 pm
CONTOUR Broken Grooves: Guests, free
CORBU LOUNGE Salsa Sundays: DJ Nick, 9 pm
NEIGHBOURS Noche Latina: DJ Luis, DJ Polo
PONY TeaDance: DJ El Toro, Freddy King of Pants, 4 pm
R PLACE Homo Hop: Guests
★ RE-BAR Flammable: DJ Wesley Holmes, Xan Lucero, guests, 9 pm, \$10
★ REVOLVER BAR No Exit: DJ Vi, Sun, noon

CLASSICAL
• BENAROYA HALL Celebrate Asia: Seattle Symphony, 4 pm, \$20-\$76
KIRKLAND PERFORMANCE CENTER Ventus Festum: Washington Wind Symphony, 2 pm, \$10-\$20
★ • MEANY HALL So Percussion, 7:30 pm, \$35-\$40
★ • ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL Compline Choir, 9:30 pm, free
• STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY Fred Kronacher, \$12-\$25
• TOWN HALL Seattle Festival Orchestra, 2 pm, \$12-\$20

MON 2/1
LIVE MUSIC
88 KEYS Blues On Tap, 7 pm, free
AQUA BY EL GAUCHO Jerry Frank, 6 pm, free
BARBOZA Garbeau, Colonies, Spirit Award, 8 pm, \$8
• BLACK LODGE Rvivr, Sharkie, Jason Clackley, Listen Lady, 8:30 pm, not free
CAPITOL CIDER EntreMundos, 9:30 pm
CONOR BYRNE Bluegrass Guests, free

Jam: 8:30 pm, free
• CROCODILE Emily King, Down North, Moorea Masa, 8 pm, \$12
KELLS Liam Gallagher
LO-FI Silty Loam, the Dumps, Sir Coyle
LUCKY LIQUOR Sid Law
• MOORE THEATRE The Wood Brothers, 7:30 pm, \$25
RENDEZVOUS Zeeko, Thaw, Roddimus, Animyst, 7:30 pm, \$5/\$7
SUNSET TAVERN Skyler Mehal, Valley Queen, Burroughs, Marble, 8 pm, \$8
TRACTOR TAVERN Gabriel Kathane, Brooklyn Rider, 8 pm, \$15
TRIPLE DOOR
MUSICQUARIUM LOUNGE Crossrhythm Sessions, 9 pm, free

JAZZ
• STONE WAY CAFE Hal Merrill Trio, 5:30 pm

DJ
BALTIC ROOM Jam: Mista' Chatman, DJ Element, 9 pm

★ BAR SUE Motown on Mondays: dj100proof, Supreme La Rock, DJ Sessions, Blueeyed soul, 10 pm, free

• CENTURY BALLROOM Salsa Social: 8:30 pm, \$8

★ THE HIDEOUT Industry Standard: Guests, free

★ MOE BAR Moe Bar

Mondays: DJ Swerveron, Jeff Hawk, DJ Henski, 10 pm, free

PONY Fruit: DJ Toast, 9 pm, free

TUE 2/2

LIVE MUSIC

88 KEYS Seatown Allstars, 8 pm, free

• AMBER RESTAURANT Folias, 6 pm, \$10 for tango class and practice/\$5 dance only/free to watch

AQUA BY EL GAUCHO Ben Fleck, 6 pm, free

BARBOZA Tor Miller, Perfect Families, Sean McVerry, 8 pm, \$10

CAFE RACER Jacobs Posse

CHOP SUEY 4 Hours to Live: Guests, 8 pm, \$3

CONOR BYRNE Country Dancing Night: 9 pm
DARELL'S TAVERNS Astrol Waters, 6 pm

• EL CORAZON Verb Slingers: Guests, 3 pm, Conveyer, Dependence, Vessels, Cornerstone, This Vast Ocean, 6:30 pm, Conveyer, Motives, Dependence, Vessels, Cornerstone, This Vast Ocean, 7 pm, \$8/\$10

J&M CAFE All-Star Acoustic

Tuesdays: Guests, 9 pm, free

★ JAZZ ALLEY Aurelio Martinez, Feb 2-3, 7:30 pm, \$28.50

KELLS Liam Gallagher

THE MIX The 350s, 8 pm

THE OULD TRIANGLE Open Mic: Guests, 8 pm, free

PARAGON You Play Tuesdays: Guests, 8 pm, free

SEAMONSTER McTuff Trio, 11 pm, free

THE SHOWBOX Granger Smith, guests, 8 pm, \$17.50/\$20

★ SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB

Baby Kettens Karaoke: 9 pm, free

★ • TACOMA DOME AC/DC, 8 pm

TIM'S TAVERN Open Mic: Linda Lee, 8 pm

JAZZ

OWL N' THISTLE Jazz with Eric Verlinde: 10 pm, free

★ THE ROYAL ROOM

Delvon Lamarr, 10 pm

DJ

BALTIC ROOM Drum & Bass

Tuesdays: Guests, 10 pm

★ BLU MOON TAVERN

Blue Moon Vinyl Revival

CONTOUR Burn

★ HAVANA Real Love '90s

MERCURY Die: Black Maru, Major Tom, \$5

NEIGHBOURS Pump It Up: Vogue: DJ Lightray

ROB ROY Analog Tuesdays: Guests, free

Jam: 8:30 pm, free
• CROCODILE Emily King, Down North, Moorea Masa, 8 pm, \$12
KELLS Liam Gallagher
LO-FI Silty Loam, the Dumps, Sir Coyle
LUCKY LIQUOR Sid Law
• MOORE THEATRE The Wood Brothers, 7:30 pm, \$25
RENDEZVOUS Zeeko, Thaw, Roddimus, Animyst, 7:30 pm, \$5/\$7
SUNSET TAVERN Skyler Mehal, Valley Queen, Burroughs, Marble, 8 pm, \$8
TRACTOR TAVERN Gabriel Kathane, Brooklyn Rider, 8 pm, \$15
TRIPLE DOOR
MUSICQUARIUM LOUNGE Crossrhythm Sessions, 9 pm, free

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THE BUDOS BAND

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THURSDAY 1/28
DREAMCATCHR
TRICK CANDLES + P.S.

SATURDAY 1/30
SAINTSENECA
DES ARK

MONDAY 2/1
GARBEAU
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MUSIC



SHABAZZ PALACES Ishmael Butler's band has crafted a sonic cosmology as obscure as it is addictive.

SUB POP

The Rise of Seattle Hip hop

An Incomplete Timeline of How Rap Replaced Rock as Seattle's Dominant Musical Force

BY KYLE FLECK

Seattle used to be known for a handful of clichés: rain, coffee, *Frasier*, passive-aggression. And, of course, grunge. For a minute back in the era of George Herbert Walker Bush, Seattle was the hot spot for label scouts to discover the next Nirvana, the next Pearl Jam, the next Alice in Chains. This led to some bizarre bedfellows, as well as the beginning of a hesitant and ongoing intermingling of the mainstream that continues unabated two decades on. Nowadays, we're on the national radar for other insidious things: Amazon, gentrification, and income inequality. And just as the early 1990s brought us an explosion of searing and scarred Gen-X rock, the beginning of our young millennium has produced a sea change in the music of the Emerald City. Along with the eternal barrage of garage bands and the steadily thriving electronic scene, Seattle's hip hop artists have taken to Bandcamp, SoundCloud, and other DIY methods of getting the word out, as astral interlocutors trade stages with lean-sipping burners and young, wide-eyed crossover potentials. Here are a few developments that led to the current state of Seattle rap, the dominant musical export for a few years running.



Gotta Get Fresh: Nasty Nes and Mix-A-Lot Plant the Seeds

The godfather of the local rap scene, along with Sir Mix-A-Lot (more on him in a moment), was unquestionably radio DJ Nasty Nes, whose *Fresh Tracks* program on KFOX showcased

early 1980s rap from locals alongside nationally known entities like Run-D.M.C. and the Sugarhill Gang. And 1985 saw the release of Mix-A-Lot's "Square Dance Rap" as the debut record from Nastymix Records, which paved the way for his future success and marked the first stab at national recognition for the fledgling Northwest hip hop scene.

That Song About Butts

There was plenty of Seattle hip hop before Sir Mix-A-Lot turned himself into an ambassador for 206 rap in 1992, with the still-ubiquitous ass anthem "Baby Got Back." But it was that grunge-era cut, along with his Capitol Hill ode "Posse on Broadway" (off 1988's *Swass*), that truly put Seattle on the map, rap-wise. Indeed, the influence of "Baby Got Back" is such that Nicki Minaj can reinterpret the track into one of the biggest rap singles of the past half-decade, with "Anaconda." Sir

Mix-A-Lot remains in town, until recently hosting local pop/rap hub KUBE 93.3's *Old Skool Lunch*, whose definition expanded from Run-D.M.C. and Public Enemy to include Nelly's "Ride Wit Me" and Eminem's "Lose Yourself" if you want to feel old. It's also worth noting that Mix-A-Lot curated the *Seattle: The Dark Side* compilation a year after "Baby" broke, capitalizing on his popularity to boost a bunch of underground locals, including Jay-Skee,



whose "Menace Crook" was a furious blast of record scratching and shit talk.

The Underground Seattle Tour

The rise of Blue Scholars (the duo of MC Geologic and DJ/producer Sabzi) roughly coincided with the true ascension of "backpacker rap" nationally, with underground labels like Rhymesayers and Def Jux providing turn-of-the-millennium platforms for artists to explore the stranger, more personal side of hip hop. Geologic's lyrics were socially conscious and nakedly vulnerable, albeit delivered with an underdog battle rapper's hunger, while Sabzi's beats were organic, lush, and understated, like the sunlight through autumn leaves. Oldominion, a sprawling hip hop collective consisting of scene stalwarts like Onry Ozzborn and Sleep, released their era-defining album *One* in 2000, with members going on to a variety of solo projects and Ozzborn forming dark rap crew Grayskul with Rob Castro and fellow MC JFK for a series of gravelly, growling releases in the aughts.

"Thrift Shop" and the Macklash

We may as well come to the white elephant in the room: When the majority of America hears the phrase "Seattle rap," the name that immediately pops into their mind is Macklemore. "Thrift Shop," that janky slice of pop-hop about cheap threads and "cold-ass honkies," inexplicably dominated the radio in 2012, becoming the albatross around local hip hop's neck. The attention it brought to the town's rap scene was welcome, while the track's obvious wackness (and Macklemore's subsequent Grammy win for album of the year instead of Kendrick Lamar's masterful *Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City*) brought no small amount of shame. Which takes us to...

XXL's "15 Seattle Rappers You Should Know"

This list, released in the spring of 2013 and

written by one of the few national print magazines still devoted to hip hop culture, caused quite a stir upon its release, with certain local heads feeling burnt about their non-inclusion. Looking back, certain entries appear entirely on-point (Fatal Lucciauno, Javy Dee), while others have yet to capitalize on the increased attention (Mack E, Eighty4 Fly), but the importance of the spotlight created in the wake of Macklemore's unlikely ascension is tough to overstate. Nevertheless, the snubs are notable: Gifted Gab and Silas Blak were both absent, for example.

Dark Stars Rising: The Moor Gang

Of the rappers mentioned on XXL's list, it must be noted that three (Nacho Picasso, Javy Dee, and Avatar Darko) count themselves among members of the Moor Gang, an ambitious crew of knuckleheads whose nihilistic sound, drug-numbed personas, and blank-eyed charisma mark them miles distant from the up-with-people mentality proffered by Macklemore and his ilk. Inspired by Cam'ron's syllable-twisting internal rhymes and a nocturnal, electronic tint to his beats, Picasso's been the most visible, with a Bart Simpson-esque "I didn't do it" vibe to his id-navigated stream-of-consciousness flows. But don't discount other clutch members: the afore-mentioned Avatar Darko and Javy, as well as serial fire-spitter Gifted Gab, whose *Girl Rap* provided a welcome dose of non-fuck-giving to the horror that was 2015.

Black Constellation: Shabazz Palaces and Porter Ray Sign to Sub Pop

Perhaps nothing has shifted Seattle's axis from the flannel-fied mid-'90s to our polyglot, globalized present than the iconic indie label Sub Pop (Nirvana, Soundgarden, Mudhoney) signing its first hip hop act, Shabazz Palaces, in 2014. Grammy-winning rapper Ishmael Butler, already a man prone to star-gazing proclivities, exited his celebrated former trio Digable Planets for even further-reaching sonic explorations with the multi-instrumentalist Tendai Maraire, in the process crafting a sonic cosmology as obscure and obtuse as it is addictive. Shabazz Palaces' first album, the obsidian artifact *Black Up*, only laid the groundwork for arguable masterpiece *Lese Majesty*, which, appropriately, first entered public consciousness through a mind-fuck of a laser show at the Pacific Science Center. Butler then got the effortlessly smooth and ebullient rap memoirist Porter Ray signed to Sub Pop as well, setting the stage for a newly diversified lineup in the coming years.

THEESatisfaction and the Black Weirdos

Coming up simultaneously with cosmic compatriots Shabazz Palaces, Afrofuturist rap/R&B group THEESatisfaction, made up of SassyBlack and Stas Thee Boss, started getting love immediately after their fantastic *awE naturalE* came out, bolstered by single "QueenS," a filter disco slice of ass-shaking self-affirmation. The duo leveraged their considerable local impact into a far-reaching and wildly successful series of "Black Weirdo" parties, stretching to Minnesota and New York and spreading the gospel of black weirdness everywhere they landed.

Thraxhouse Undivided

Taking the warped and prismatic flow of viral legend/punch line/possible genius Lil B in more strange and obscure directions, rapper/producer Mackned has managed to fuse a sound as weird as it is engaging, recruiting a West Coast contingent of like-minded introverts under the collective title Thraxhouse. Mackned's hot streak was unparalleled in ▶

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◀ 2015: releases like *Female* and *Celebrity Etiquette* cemented his status as a bizarre antidote to the anonymous and bland rap offered by too many of the Northwest's hip-hop artists. Ned and the equally #based Key Nyata have garnered huge fan support with their dreamlike compositions and oddly angled approach to "street music."

Future Flow: DoNormaal

The newest wunderkind around town is DoNormaal, aka Christianne Karefa-Johnson, whose album *Jump or Die* grabbed the local hiphopnescentsi by the lapels late last year with its surreally catchy flows bouncing around futurist, bass-laden productions. It's an incredibly assured collection of serpentine, squirming bangers, equally as likely to burrow an earworm into your brain as it is to blow out your speakers. One can only hope the new year will bring more fried and tactile brilliance from this decidedly

un-Normaal California transplant.

Pillars

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the hordes of DJs, writers, record-store owners, breakdancers, beatsmiths, and other heads who have long contributed to the city's rich hiphop tradition, so here, in no particular order and with advance apology for any omission, are just a few of the other folks who keep the scene humming in the face of gentrification, police bullshit, and other hurdles: *Stranger* My Philosophy columnist and KEXP DJ Larry Mizell Jr., whose *Street Sounds* program has long carried the torch of local rap; *Stranger* writer Charles Mude, who's covered the scene for more than a decade; breakdancing crew the Massive Monkees; all the cats at the Station; former *Rocket* writer Glen Boyd; and Dr. Daudi Abe, whose primer on Seattle rap's early days "Going Way Back"—to which this article owes a debt—appeared in this paper in 2006. ■

Here Are the Bands and Artists You Need to Be Aware Of (But Only If You Like Music)

BY DAVE SEGAL

Now that you're in Seattle, you've probably noticed that there are more bands playing in town every night than you could ever see, even if that's all you did for the rest of your life. With that in mind, here's an incomplete crib sheet of some of our favorites. Read *The Stranger* every week for ongoing coverage, and check in regularly with Things To Do (thestranger.com/events/music), the only live music calendar you need.

HIPHOP

Shabazz Palaces: The most advanced, adventurous hiphop ensemble not only in Seattle, but possibly the world, Shabazz Palaces keep it surreal lyrically and sonically, turning the streets into rivers of stardust.

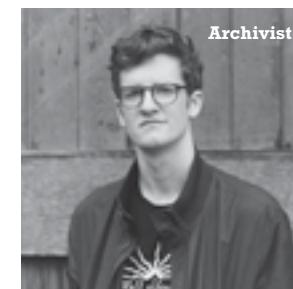
THEESatisfaction: While moving and grooving in Shabazz's orbit, THEESatisfaction come at you with somewhat earthier flows and production, with skill levels of great depth and soul. Their tracks are smooth yet gripping, and full of beguiling melodic curlicues.

DoNormaal: Everyone's going nuts for this newcomer's art; it's easy to hear why. She's bringing much-needed weird-woman energy and insights to this male-dominated sphere. Her new album, *Jump or Die*, gives off early Tricky vibes—a very good thing.

Porter Ray: Anointed as the next great Seattle rap hope by Sub Pop A&R rep Ishmael Butler and our own Larry Mizell Jr., Ray boasts a honeyed flow and wise-beyond-his-tears lyrics, all set within chill nocturnal atmospheres. His tracks ease into your pleasure centers and stir your emotions with effortless cool.

Mackned: Mackned's woozy, ominous soundworld and foreboding lyrical delivery mark him as one of the town's most distinctive hiphop voices. He's perhaps the brightest dark star in the Thraxxhouse universe.

Honorable mentions: Raz Simone, Avatar Darko, Nacho Picasso, Chimurenga Renaissance



Diminished Men record for Alan Bishop's Abduction label: Their music reflects his ravishing aesthetic of merging various genres into startlingly individualistic compositions. If 1960s Morricone, electric Miles, and early-'70s Can float your boat, sail on with Diminished Men.

Midday Veil: One of the most exciting Seattle rock acts of this decade, Midday Veil have migrated from third-eye-opening space-rock unit to an ensemble playing a mystical-glam strain of cosmic disco and artful songcraft. Rarely have the sexy and cerebral conjugated so spectacularly in one group.

Master Musicians of Bukkake: With cult-like intensity, MMOB erect alternate-world soundscapes that conjure psychedelic vistas of places that only exist in their perverse imaginations. Heavy and light, demonic and celestial, brutal and beatific—their music enshrines paradox.

Chastity Belt: There's no more pleasurable way to learn about the vagaries of young adult life in Seattle than through Chastity Belt's perceptive, morosely beautiful songs. Julia Shapiro's deadpan voice and sardonic words nonchalantly rivet like those of a seasoned comedian.

Nail Polish: With their crucial no wave energy and spastic dynamics, Nail Polish are the antidote the city's placid-rock status quo. They call out gentrifying assholes and bro culture with lyrics as cutting as their Gang of Four/Contortions-inflected guitars.

Honorable mentions: Car Seat Headrest, Fungal Abyss, Gazebos, Ecstatic Cosmic Union, Wind Burial, New Weather.

EXPERIMENTAL

Raica: Raica (Chloe Harris, co-owner of the visionary Further label) continually finds novel ways to turn abstract electronic music into dark revelations. Every live set is different and enthralling—a rare feat in any genre, but especially so in electronic music.

Newaxeyes: One of those groups that gracefully elude categorization and make you think *anything* is possible, these four young bright sparks locate the beauty in noise ▶

ROCK

Diminished Men: It's so apt that

◀ and the calm in chaos. They can make you dance spasmodically, but more often they trigger feelings of majestic disaster and tense peace.

Kate Olson: Saxophonist in Syrinx Effect and K.O. Ensemble and a collaborator in Ask the Ages and Electric Circus, Olson is renowned for her deeply expressive and mesmerizing virtuosity in both band and solo formats in experimental and jazz idioms. Her solo work especially will appeal to fans of pioneering minimalist composers like Terry Riley and Pauline Oliveros.

Meridian Arc: In a strange turn of events, the drummer of hard-rock band Terminal Fuzz Terror entered the synthesizer lab and became this city's John Carpenter and Bernard Szajner. Meridian Arc (aka Andrew Crawshaw) coaxes sinister drones and ill gurgles from his machines for that dystopian sci-fi-film aura that's all the rage these days.

Marcus Price: Unpredictability and adventurousness pervade Price's electronic music. He takes elements of IDM, noise, and ambient to build perversely complicated and mangled compositions that keep you guessing and reeling in most peculiar ways. Check out his *Four (three)* EP for proof.

Honorable mentions: LIMITS, Garek Druss, Pulling Out the Light, Geological Creep, RM Francis

TECHNO

Archivist: DJ/producer Alex Markey is at the beginning of what could be a long, rewarding career, if his *Pathfinder* EP on New York's Blankstairs is any indication. Improving on his great 2015 Decibel Festival set, the tracks here propel with a streamlined stealth in the coolly exhilarating manner of dub-techno-minimalist greats like Porter Ricks, Scion, and Fluxion.

P L L: With krautrock kosmonauts Brain Fruit in limbo, synth sorcerer Chris Davis (P L L) lately has focused on his solo output, and fans of high-energy/high-impact techno have benefited. His hardware-fueled techno sets take you on euphorically punishing roller-coaster rides.

Bardo:Basho: There's no one in town like Kirsten Thom: She sings like Dead Can Dance's Lisa Gerrard and makes ethereally earthy minimal techno with spiritual undercurrents. Her live performances have been improving steadily, revealing an artist poised to take techno to rarefied places.

Big Phone: When he's not working on machine intelligence projects at Google, Kenric McDowell creates some of the most cerebral, involving, texturally interesting, and slyly groovy techno in the region. Check his *Black Earth App Worship* EP for a PhD-level seminar in club-friendly synthesis.

Fugal: It seems like Fugal (secondnature member Ted Shin) is always playing at the bottom of bills, but he deserves higher status. He specializes in that sort of bruising, rock-ribbed techno that makes the most sense at 4 a.m., when those proverbial stimulants are smiling hardest in your brain and limbs.

Honorable mentions: Simic, Mood Organ, AOS, Airport

JAZZ

Industrial Revelation: Justifiably renowned and bolstered by a Stranger Genius Award, this quartet launch jazz to some heady, rocky, and soulful places, converting people who normally don't usually care about the great American art into raving advocates. Daring arrangers and deft melodists, IR are a heart-bursting spectacle onstage.

Afrocop: Think of Afrocop as Industrial Revelation's more introverted and more psychedelically inclined cousin. Afrocop's scintillating instrumentals take serpentine

and funky routes to induce higher states of consciousness.

Wayne Horvitz: A master of many modes of jazz and fusion, keyboardist Wayne Horvitz is a key catalyst in Seattle's music scene as both an adventurous player and as owner of the Royal Room venue.

Wally Shoup: Venerable free-jazz saxophonist Shoup is still a dynamo of well-articulated rage and beauty on his instrument. Ask his storied collaborators Thurston Moore, Nels Cline, and Chris Corsano for proof.

Hound Dog Taylor's Hand: What an artful conflagration of noise rock and jazz, as generated by Climax Golden Twins guitarist Jeffery Taylor, bassist John Seman, and drummer Mark Ostrowski. Fans of Sonny Sharrock and Billy Cobham's *Spectrum*, take note.

AMBIENT

Panabrite: Prolific synth maestro Norm Chambers ranks among the world's foremost purveyors of rigorously sculpted ambient composition. Informed by the brainiest German *kosmische* musicians and Italian minimalist/progressive composers of the 1970s and '80s, Panabrite's music always elevates.

Benoit Pioulard: Thomas Meluch came into his own in 2015 with three releases that thrust him toward the world's highest stratum of ambient music, up where Brian Eno circa *Discreet Music* and William Basinski circa *The Disintegration Loops* hover with preternatural grace.

Hair and Space Museum: Moonlighting from their main project, Midday Veil, Emily Pothast and David Golightly realize their most cosmic Terry Riley-esque dreams, using ambrosial keyboard peregrinations and space chants to induce a mystical drift.

Gel-Sol: A one-man Orb, Gel-Sol (aka notorious prog-rock maven Andy Reichel) combines ribald humor with an affinity for the trippiest tones and dankest dub rhythms.

Monadh: Rising young producer Jake Muir is releasing his debut album, *Muara*, in March on revered Seattle label Further, and it's a vessel for deeply aquatic sonic tranquility. This could be the start of a long career in beatless bliss.

FUNK/SOUL

Eldridge Gravy and the Court Supreme: With membership in the double digits, Eldridge Gravy generate a tower of funk/soul power in the vein of Parliament-Funkadelic and Sly & the Family Stone. As I wrote in 2014: "Bravura male and female vocals bounce off of and intertwine with one another over horn-laden, percussion-heavy jams that give your get-down muscles a rigorous work-out." That still holds.

Grace Love and the True Loves: A passionate re-creation of classic large-scale R&B/soul revues from the 1960s, Grace Love and the True Loves are distinguished by their namesake's robust, charismatic voice. From burners to ballads, she and her guys nail it.

McTuff: This trio come at funk from a soul-jazzy perspective, with each player—Hammond organ guru Joe Doria, virtuoso guitarist Andy Coe, and powerfully funky drummer Tarik Abouzied—flaunting dexterous chops and telepathic groupthink. They're Seattle's own Medeski Martin & Wood.

Polyrhythmics: Seattle octet Polyrhythmics have mastered that big-band Afrobeat/funk fusion thing with verve and adventurousness. On their latest album, *Libra Stripes*, the group's 32 limbs work in synchronicity to produce a complex sinuousness and flamboyant brassiness. Were he alive, Fela Kuti would not disapprove.

Honorable mentions: Down North, Staxx Brothers ■



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'While the City Slept'

Eli Sanders & Jennifer Hopper

Wednesday, Feb. 3rd
7:30pm

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Eli Sanders and Jennifer Hopper appear in conversation with KUOW's Marcie Sillman for an exploration of the tragic 2009 attack on Hopper and her partner in Seattle's South Park neighborhood, the system that failed to curb one man's violent actions, and what the future of mental healthcare could be in this country.

townhallseattle.org



ART



OLYMPIC SCULPTURE PARK This red-orange eagle by Alexander Calder is one of the (free) park's highlights.

KELLY O

A Guide to What Is (and Isn't) Public Art in Seattle

BY JEN GRAVES

Seattle is known for its public art—not for just a couple of big pieces, like the Picasso and the Bean in Chicago, but for integrating art into the landscape and the buildings themselves. This sometimes results in lackluster work, or even art you don't know is art when you're looking at it. Never mind all that. The fact is that there's plenty to appreciate here, and to consider. The best part is that because of the art's embedded nature, it teaches you about the city itself. So let's start with...

The City Itself

Seattle is one of the more outrageous land sculptures in American history. Because its downtown hills (including those along Denny Way at the north and Jackson Avenue to the south) were punishing for commerce, several were actually sliced off and dumped into Puget Sound. There was so much dirt that it changed the water level. Yes. Over the course of 30 years, from about 1900 to 1930, about 50 million cubic yards of earth was added to the Sound. What's more, the Duwamish River was butchered to be straighter and wider; Lakes Union and Washington were brought level with each other, cutting off an ancient river to the south (the Black); and new lands were slapped down where waters once flowed.

All cities are built environments, but Seattle is one of the especially, magnificently fake. And this legacy of artifice is an inheritance to the artists who live and work here today, just as much as Seattle's famous wildernesses of "pristine" mountains and water.



The Ones You Can't Avoid

There's a bronze pig at Pike Place Market. (And that's all there is to say about that.) There's a several-stories-high *Hammering Man* (Jonathan Borofsky, 1991) out front at Seattle Art Museum; he is an expensive homage to exploited labor. In the center of Fremont, you're going to come across a series of figures that people like to decorate cutely (*Waiting for the Interurban*, Richard Beyer, 1979). They are not as bad as the two dancing bronze clowns nearby (*Late for the Interurban*, Kevin Pettelle, 2008, SHIELD YOUR EYES). Cleanse yourself while you're in Fremont with the giant Troll under the bridge (by four artists, 1990). You can climb on him and poke at his hubcap eye. Throughout downtown you will see big, bright, plopped-down sculptures of tulips and popsicles and whatnot, if you like that sort of thing.

The Olympic Sculpture Park

This is Seattle Art Museum's sliver of land on the Elliott Bay waterfront, which is free to visit and open during daytime hours. Highlights: the nurse log/reclining nude in its/her greenhouse with tour guides (by Mark Dion), the canyons of steel (Richard Serra), the great red-orange eagle (Alexander Calder), and the eyeball benches (Louise Bourgeois). Bewildering but fun: Bourgeois's fountain of alternating naked father and naked son. (The backstory on the fountain is that a millionaire donor required that his money be spent on a piece of art including "fully articulated" male nudity. He got two penises for the price of one.)

The Other Art Parks

Gas Works Park, on the north shore of Lake Union, and Freeway Park, hovering over I-5 downtown, both elevate landscape architecture to art. Gas Works (Richard Haag, 1975) is marked by the remnants of a coal gasification plant and a huge mysterious mound of earth, as if the industrial ruins were actually buried underground and these remnants were only beautiful ghosts. Freeway Park couldn't be more different. It's been called the first park ever to be built over a highway, and its tiered rock formations and waterfalls culminate in a surprising up-close view of the zooming freeway below (Lawrence Halprin, Angela Danadjieva, 1976).

The Art Outside the City

The entire Sound Transit light rail line is jammed with art, so you may as well ride the line and see it all. Get off at each station and note that some of the art is hidden in plain

**The entire Sound
Transit light rail line
is jammed with art, so
you may as well ride
the line and see it all.**

sight. On another day, make your way to Kent to see the three main earthworks there—they are a major wonderland, and nobody is going to tell you about them, so hear me. Go to Herbert Bayer's *Mill Creek Canyon Earthworks*

(1982), a modernist sculpture garden made of earth that's also a functioning dam; Robert Morris's *Untitled Earthwork* (Johnson Pit #30) (1979), a carved-up former gravel pit with tar-coated tree stumps standing as gravestones that form one of the most beautifully conflicted places in the Puget Sound region; and Lorna Jordan's baroque gardens, which are actually a wastewater treatment plant (*Waterworks Gardens*, 1990–1996).

The Art That Isn't Obvious

That plaza with a ping-pong table near the corner of Harrison and Terry in South Lake Union? Yeah, that's art. Play on it. It's by Buster Simpson. Another one of his works that will make you wonder: those protective gates around the struggling saplings along super-urban First Avenue. The gates are made of bed frames and crutches cast from the detritus of the buildings that were demolished in that neighborhood in the 1980s to make it the conflicted condo/nightclub/social-services center it is today.

Two more works in the "What are those?" category: In Myrtle Edwards Park, you'll find six giant hunks of hard material arranged in three pairs. Each pair is half-natural, half-human-made: one slab of concrete, one boulder from a Washington quarry. They sit at the edge of natural Seattle and urban Seattle, right on the waterfront, and they weigh multiple tons, but they represent the lightness and motion of adverbs read left to right because they're arranged adjacent, against, and then upon each other (Michael Heizer, 1976). And finally, there are viewers you gaze into at the water's edge along Alki Beach in West Seattle. Inside each one you'll see the beautiful view in front of you that day superimposed with a historical photograph of what came before (Donald Fels, 1998). They're part of an entire system of objects and texts there by Fels, Joe Feddersen, and Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, all reminding you that this is, still, Native land. ■

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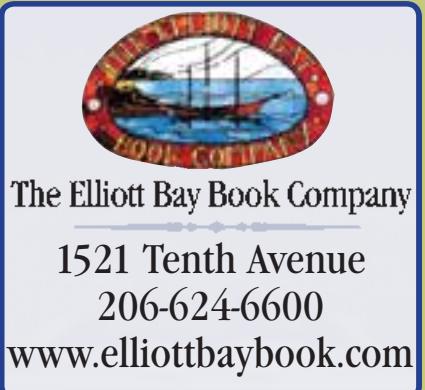
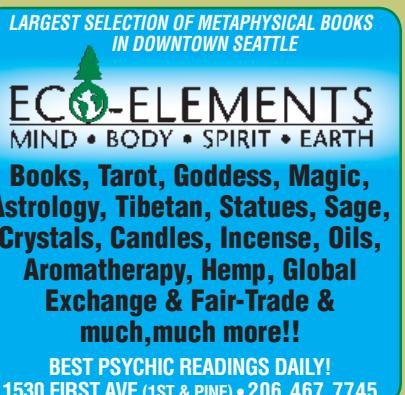
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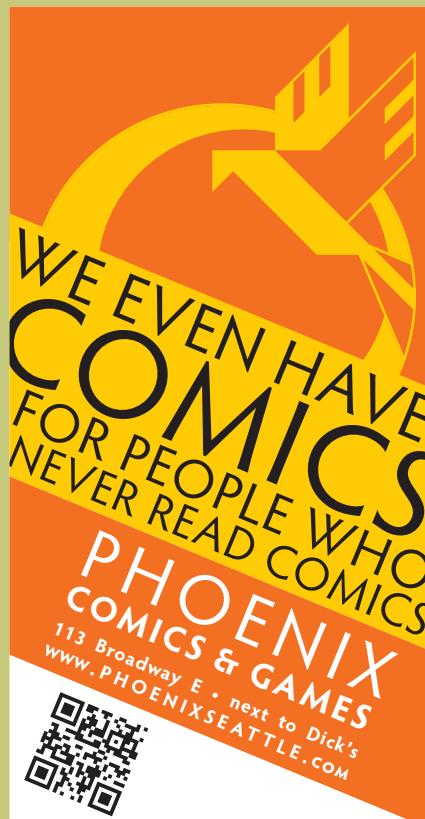


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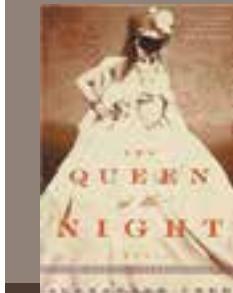


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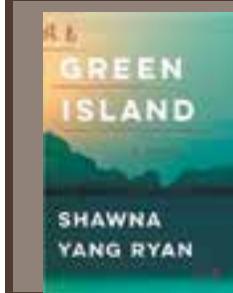
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Alexander Chee
The Queen of the Night (Houghton)
Friday, February 19 at 6:30pm @ LFP



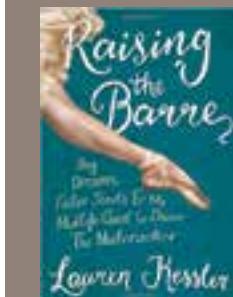
Drama and intrigue ensue in this utterly engrossing novel about opera, obsession, and the secrets we keep from others. Featuring a cast of characters drawn from history, The Queen of the Night follows Lilliet as she moves ever closer to the truth behind a mysterious opera.

Shawna Yang Ryan
Green Island (Knopf)
Tuesday, February 23 at 7pm @ LFP



A stunning story of love, betrayal, and family, set against the backdrop of a changing Taiwan. As the novel sweeps across six decades and two continents, the life of the narrator shadows the course of Taiwan's history from the end of Japanese colonial rule through Taiwan's transformation into a democracy.

Lauren Kessler
Raising the Barre: Big Dreams, False Starts, and My Midlife Quest to Dance the Nutcracker (Perseus)
Thursday, February 25 at 7pm @ LFP



An award-winning author's journey to turn off the comfortable cruise-control of midlife and reclaim the daring of her girlhood by dancing in the world's most popular ballet, The Nutcracker, with a professional company.

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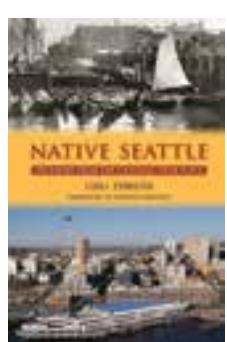


Books About Seattle That Everyone Should Read

These 12 Books Will Bring You Up to Speed on the City's Many Histories

Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing-Over Place
By Coll Thrush
(University of Washington Press, 2008)

It's Coll Thrush's claim that Seattle visualizes Natives more than any other major American city—from the wildly displaced Alaskan totem pole in Pioneer Square to those many, many manhole covers under your feet as you walk throughout downtown, all bearing Native designs.

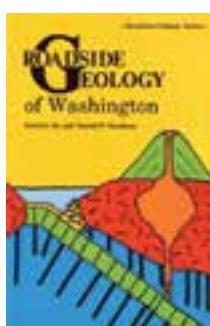


But the city has visualized Natives as convenient fictions: romantic and disappearing, exotic and othered, combatant enemies. Seattle has failed to simply *recognize* the reality of the people native to its land and the people after whom it is named, and in fact the federal government still doesn't recognize its native tribe, the Duwamish.

Thrush's 2008 book is a rejoinder to all that, a vivid retelling of Native history in Seattle, and it is an incredible history. At one point, he tells the anecdote of a man hauled in front of a judge because he doesn't have his papers. He's Chinese, the judge says, and asks for his papers. I'm Chinese American, the man says; I was born here. Prove it, the judge says: Tell me where you live in English, Chinese, and Salish, the language system of the Native people here. The man does, and is released. This is the multicultural early Seattle that was wiped away throughout the late-19th and early-20th centuries. We have tremendous roots, we just don't know it. So read this. JEN GRAVES

Roadside Geology of Washington
By David D. Alt and Donald W. Hyndman
(Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1984)

The geological history of this state is fucking amazing, and this awesome little book lays it all out for you by region: the Northeastern Highlands (that's Spokane and such), the North Cascade Subcontinent (think Everett to Wenatchee), the Cascade volcanoes (Mount Rainier being the most prominent), the Willapa Hills (drive from Seattle to Portland and you'll find 'em), and the Puget Sound Lowland (that's us here in Seattle).



I could blab on for quite a while about the endlessly intriguing history of the ground beneath your feet, but instead of getting myself into "spoiler" trouble, I'll just suggest you go buy this thing, hang onto it, and slide into looking at life on a geologic timescale every once in a while. It's quite relaxing. ELI SANDERS

Skid Road
By Murray Morgan
(University of Washington Press, 1951)

You can probably find this book lying around the house of anyone who's been in Seattle long enough to get even a little bit interested in the city's past. *Skid Road*, written by an interesting character named Murray Morgan, looks at the city's first 100 years: relations between Native Americans and Seattle's "pioneers," the ruin of the Great Seattle Fire, the effects of the gold rush, the city's early newspapers, the General Strike of 1919, and more. It's not academic history—and far more enjoyable for it. At the time Morgan wrote this book, he was "moonlighting as a reporter-commentator for a small radio station and as a tender on Tacoma's Eleventh Street bridge." Exactly the kind of guy you'd probably enjoy having show you around town. ELI SANDERS

Seattle Justice: The Rise and Fall of the Police Payoff System in Seattle
By Christopher T. Bayley
(Sasquatch Books, 2015)

My People Are Rising: Memoir of a Black Panther Party Captain
By Aaron Dixon
(Haymarket Books, 2012)

You may think that Seattle—the Progressive Utopia of the Pacific Northwest™—has never experienced the kind of corruption or police brutality that you see in cities like New York City or Chicago. Two recent books provide a useful reality-check. *Seattle Justice: The Rise and Fall of the Police Payoff System in Seattle*, written by former King County prosecutor Christopher Bayley, and *My People Are Rising*,

by Aaron Dixon, the former captain of the Seattle chapter of the Black Panther Party. Both paint a portrait of a city run by flawed human beings, and a town divided by race and class.

In *Seattle Justice*, Bayley recounts how police officers—and a King County prosecutor—allowed illegal gambling parlors to flourish in the city in exchange for payoffs in the early- to mid-20th century. Dixon documents his life growing up Black in Madrona, and how his experiences with racism led him to the Black

Power movement in the 1960s and '70s. Both books overlap in their account of the police setup and killing of Black Panther activist Larry Ward in 1970. The similarities between that era and today, with the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, are unmistakable. These books provide context to the forces that helped shape some of the city's key neighborhoods—and make a compelling argument for why we need watchdogs for those in power. ANSEL HERZ

While the City Slept
By Eli Sanders
(Viking, 2016)

This book isn't actually published yet (it comes out on February 2), but because I happen to know the author (*The Stranger*'s own Eli Sanders), I've had the privilege of reading it already, and I can tell you that it's well worth adding to the canon of Seattle's history. It grows out of Sanders's 2011 Pulitzer Prize-winning story for *The Stranger*, "The Bravest Woman in Seattle," about a horrific crime that happened one night in South Park, and the courage of the crime's survivor.

That crime may be a scar on the city's psyche most Seattleites would like to forget, but in *While the City Slept*, Sanders weaves together a powerful narrative that shows why we shouldn't, and he accomplishes this by delving into the lives of the three individuals involved, as well as the forces—namely, the failures of Washington State's criminal-justice and mental-health systems—that caused these individuals

to collide. As Sanders makes clear, this traumatic moment in Seattle history had impacts and implications that reach far beyond the people directly affected by the crime. KATHLEEN RICHARDS

Seattle City of Literature
Edited by Ryan Boudinot
(Sasquatch Books, 2015)

Ryan Boudinot, a local fiction writer, commissioned a bunch of essays from other local writers for this anthology on Seattle's literary history. The stories, which are mostly short, include authors such as Tom

Robbins, Rebecca Brown, and Sonora Jha reminiscing about old haunts and the ghosts that hung around them. There are also fun interviews with booksellers and stories about those who are doing cool stuff

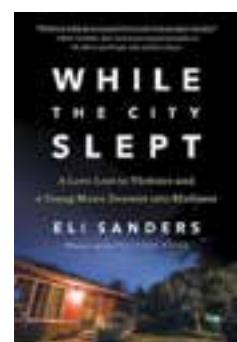
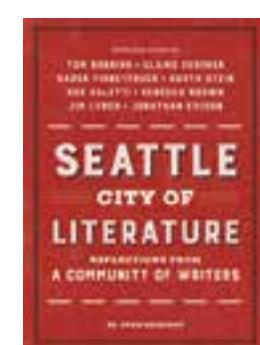
today, such as Eli Hastings, the APRIL festival, and Vi Hilbert.

While this collection of barroom stories is a bit whitewashed (there are only a few contributions by or about writers of color), it does point out some important facts about Seattle's distinctions in the writing world, such as the strong academic poetry scene in the 1970s, the generally strong fiction scene (especially in the realm of sci-fi), and a fantastic comics scene (thanks, Fantagraphics!). You'll also learn that Seattle loves Haruki Murakami, Sherman Alexie is everybody's favorite performer, and that if it weren't for Seattle's cafes, industrial lofts, houseboats, and constant rain, no one would've ever written anything. RICH SMITH

Jackson Street After Hours
By Paul de Barros
(Sasquatch Books, 1993)

The corner of 12th Avenue South and Jackson Street is home to Vietnamese restaurants and supermarkets, Szechuanese eateries, as well as a taco truck. Cultural

commingling on Jackson Street is nothing new, though its history as the center of Seattle's thriving jazz scene in the 1940s and '50s is not widely known. Paul de Barros's book is a loving and meticulous look at the musicians (including Ray Charles, Quincy



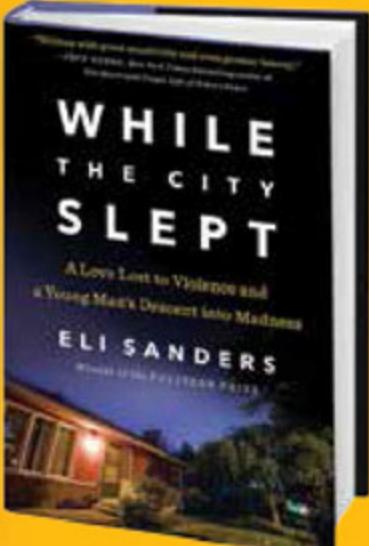
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◀ Jones, and Ernestine Anderson) and the venues that drew in crowds of Seattleites—black, white, and Asian—night after night. ANGELA GARBES

Images of America
Various authors
(Arcadia Publishing)

For some reason, the Arcadia Publishing Company in South Carolina has decided it's going to publish delightful little books on just about every little city and neighborhood in America. Roll your eyes if you want, but this is actually a great idea and has resulted in hundreds of individual offerings that home in on Washington State—including most, if not all, of the neighborhoods in Seattle.

If you're a serious bookstore browser, you may have seen these books already. Walk over to Elliott Bay Book Company's Seattle section and they'll be hard to miss: a long row of slim, sepia-toned paperbacks focused on the history of Rainier Valley, Seattle's floating homes, the Greenwood-Phinney neighborhoods, West Seattle, and so on. Heavy on historical photographs, and with no pretensions of being much more than the best some Arcadia-hired person could do for Arcadia's millionth neighborhood write-up, these books provide a great grounding in the micro-history of Seattle's various communities. It's a little bit like decades of super-important highlights from your best neighborhood blog all rolled up in one tiny bound volume (that is, if your best neighborhood blog had actually existed for decades, which, I promise you, it has not). ELI SANDERS

Gay Seattle
By Gary L. Atkins
(University of Washington Press, 2003)

The first chapter title of this essential history by author Gary Atkins reads, in part: "Sodomy on the Mudflat." Do I need to tell you more? This book covers the long arc of Seattle's gay community, from saloons "where men could explore the pleasures of friendship" to relatively more recent places like Shelly's Leg (rejected name: "The Great White Swallow"), which was a disco that in the 1970s drew so many straight people that the owners, according to Atkins, had to post a sign to make

sure gays would still "feel welcome." The history of the Double Header in Pioneer Square? Check. The story of Cal Anderson? Check. A look at the frightening Initiative 13, the early years of the AIDS crisis in Seattle, and Capitol Hill's evolution into a gay neighborhood? Check, check, and check. Unless you know everything there is to know about sodomy on mudflats and all the

rest—which I find HIGHLY unlikely—you need to check this one out. ELI SANDERS

The Best Party of Our Lives
By Sarah Galvin
(Sasquatch Books, 2015)

If you want to hear a voice that could've emerged only from this corner of the country, you need to seek out everything

Sarah Galvin has ever written. She's known around town for her poetry, but *The Best Party of Our Lives* reveals her gift as a storyteller and a political thinker as well.

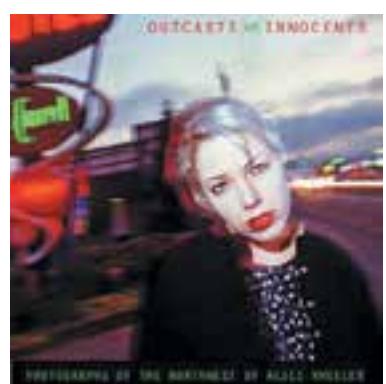
The book consists of 23 stories of queer couples who married shortly after same-sex marriage was legalized in Washington State. Galvin overcomes the coffee-table format by bringing a poet's ear and eye to her interviews, drawing details only she could elicit. One of the book's subjects, for instance, tells the story of proposing to her partner with a grill basket instead of with a ring.

What does the book say about Seattle? That there's a history of accepting queer love here, but also that there's still plenty more work to do: Trans folk are getting beaten up on Capitol Hill, and youth homelessness rates among queer people are staggering. Still, the

book celebrates the legalization of same-sex marriage as a big win that made lots of peoples' lives better. RICH SMITH

Outcasts and Innocents
By Alice Wheeler
(Minor Matters Books, 2015)

Alice Wheeler landed in Washington State in the late 1980s, just in time to document—with her signature eye for bright colors and her tough-as-hell black-and-white photography—the riot grrrl world that was



bubbling up here at the time. Featuring a foreword by Kathleen Hanna, *Outcasts and Innocents* is Wheeler's first hardcover photography book, and it's 144 pages of real-deal 1990s Northwest. In addition to incredible portraits and live shots of lady punk bands such as L7, Hole, Sleater-Kinney, Bikini Kill, and Babes in Toyland, *Outcasts* includes many bold images of the Northwest's outsider culture—a rugged terrain full of rain, mountains, queers, punks, rebels, anarchists, and maybe her most famous photo subject: Kurt Cobain. "I've always been interested in photographing people on the margins of society," Wheeler recently told me. "Outsiders whom I most respect." KELLY O

We write about outsiders all the time at
THESTRANGER.COM/BOOKS



FILM



45 YEARS "Charlotte, tell me you didn't say that."

Charlotte Rampling's Performance in 45 Years Is Great, but Her Comments About Race and the Oscars Are Offensive and Ignorant

BY KATHY FENNESSY

In director Andrew Haigh's last film, 2011's closely observed *Weekend*, a young couple spends three days getting to know each other body and soul. *45 Years*, his equally assured follow-up, spends a week with another couple, but the differences are as striking as the similarities. For one thing, Kate (Oscar nominee Charlotte Rampling) and Geoff (Tom Courtenay) met in the 1960s when Courtenay, the actor, was the frustrated working-class man of British film and Rampling was his opposite number: a cool, sexually confident beauty. If their characters had anything in common, it was a low tolerance for bourgeois bullshit.

Courtenay's final move in 1962's *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner* remains the ultimate middle-finger to a society that would sort citizens according to their birth. *45 Years* has little to do with class, but Haigh is a savvy filmmaker, and glimmers of his actors' past shine through their perfectly aligned performances. With a few strokes, he depicts a comfortable country marriage between retired professionals that develops fault lines when a revelation about Geoff's past comes to light. To him, it's nothing to make a fuss about, just the final piece in a puzzle started years

before. But to her, it's everything.

Haigh avoids big scenes and bold gestures as Kate and Geoff simply go about their lives. But with each day, more details emerge, leading up to an anniversary party where Rampling and Courtenay prove why they're among Britain's finest contributions to world cinema.

Now I must say a word about the controversial statements

Rampling made recently about how the protests against the lack of people of color in the 2016 Oscar nominations were "racist to white people."

Rampling's filmography speaks for itself: It's bold, adventurous, and at times downright weird. There's only one *Zardoz*, and she starred in it opposite Sean Connery and the world's most amazing slingshot diaper. In Nagisa Oshima's *Max, Mon Amour*, she was paired with a fucking *chimp*. If a director she respects asks her to do something, no matter how wacky, she'll do it. And she'll go all the damn way with it.

But she isn't a director herself. She's a 69-year-old British actress who was known for her looks before she was known for her

talent, so she has some experience when it comes to being judged for the way you appear to be rather than for who you are and what you can do. All of that is to say that her comments about race and black actors are ignorant, offensive, and mind-numbingly cruel.

In *45 Years*, she plays a sexually active senior citizen, something seen on screen all too rarely, and a reminder that she's

a minority, too: an older woman in Hollywood. Fortunately, she's doing better than most, so why would she deny other minorities the same opportunity? To say it's because they're "not good enough" implies that she doesn't get out much. Does she really believe that her fellow Brit David Oyelowo didn't deserve an Oscar nomination for *Selma*? (I firmly believe he should've won, but the Academy felt otherwise.)

This isn't just about Will Smith in *Concussion* or Idris Elba in *Beasts of No Nation*, and if she thinks it is, she's welcome to raid my DVD collection for other films featuring black actors and directors who never received the Oscar recognition they deserved. But she did. Be grateful, white lady. And do better. ■



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SILENT TREASURES

FEB. 8 THE GOLD RUSH
Featuring decorated scenes
performed by Chaplin

FEB. 15 THE BIG PARADE
Featuring Dorothy Gish in her
Mighty Warhorse Begins

FEB. 22 LIME KILN
CLUB FIELD DAY
Featuring Sally olson in her
Mighty Warhorse Begins

FEB. 29 BEN HUR:
A TALE OF THE CHRIST
Featuring score composed and
performed by Elmer Bernstein

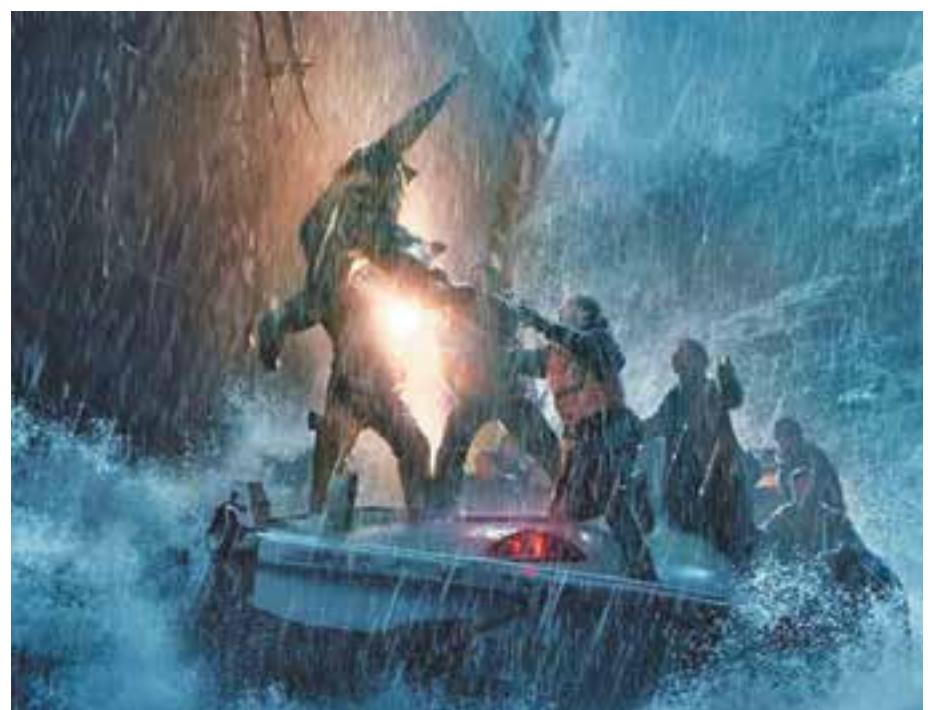
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THE FINEST HOURS *A white-knuckle adventure.*

The Finest Hours

Runs Adrift on Land

BY NED LANNAMANN

One of the most infuriating laws of filmmaking is that a good story doesn't always turn into a good movie. *The Finest Hours* has a great story—the unbelievable rescue of the SS *Pendleton*'s crew by the US Coast Guard during a brutal nor'easter—but it's sunk by unnecessary embroidery and an unpleasantly sappy script. When the movie sticks to the actual rescue, it's a white-knuckle adventure, but there's also a lot of bullshit the filmmakers should have tossed overboard.

fine. We don't need any distracting backstory or character arc.

No such luck with Bernie Webber (Chris Pine), who captained a tiny rescue boat through the blinding storm. I don't think Webber was an autistic narcoleptic, but Pine apparently does, because he can barely mumble a line without furtively shifting his gaze like a dog caught whizzing on the sofa. He sucks.

I think we're also supposed to love Webster's fiancée, Miriam, because the script suggests she's ugly (she's played by Holliday Grainger, who's not ugly at all). She's also incredibly dumb and wastes a quarter of *The Fugitive Heavens*, run time, wandering around

*F*nest *H*ours fun time wandering around the snowstorm without a coat on, fretting about Bernie, and driving her car into a snowdrift. The notion that her subplot can compete with a daring ship rescue is ludicrous. The at-sea sequences are mostly

**sunk by un-
embroidery
unpleasantly
script.**

incredible—but whenever *The Finest Hours* hits land, it's deathly boring. ■

The film is sunk by unnecessary embroidery and an unpleasantly sappy script.

incredible—but whenever *The Finest Hours* hits land, it's deathly boring. ■



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IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 5

IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 5

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

For the Week of January 27

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do you know Emily Brontë's novel *Wuthering Heights*? At one point, the heroine Catherine tells her friend about Edgar, a man she's interested in. "He wanted all to lie in an ecstasy of peace," Catherine says, "and I wanted all to sparkle and dance in a glorious jubilee. I said his heaven would be only half alive, and he said mine would be drunk. I said I should fall asleep in his, and he said he could not breathe in mine." If you're a typical Aries, you're more aligned with Catherine than with Edgar. But I'm hoping you might consider making a temporary compromise in the coming weeks. "At last, we agreed to try both," Catherine concluded, "and then we kissed each other and were friends."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): People turn to you Tauruses for help in staying grounded. They love to soak up your down-to-earth pragmatism. They want your steadfastness to rub off on them, to provide them with the stability they see in you. You should be proud of this service you offer! It's a key part of your appeal. Now and then, though, you need to demonstrate that your stalwart dependability is not static and stagnant—that it's strong exactly because it's flexible and adaptable. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to emphasize this aspect of your superpower.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): When winter comes, pine trees that grow near mountaintops may not be able to draw water and minerals from the ground through their roots. The sustenance they require is frozen. Luckily, their needle-like leaves absorb moisture from clouds and fog, and drink in minerals that float on the wind. Metaphorically speaking, Gemini, this will be your preferred method for getting nourished in the coming weeks. For the time being, look up to obtain what you need. Be fed primarily by noble ideals, big visions, divine inspiration, and high-minded people.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): We all go through phases when we are at odds with people we love. Maybe we're mad at them, or feel hurt by them, or can't comprehend what they're going through. The test of our commitment is how we act when we are in these moods. That's why I agree with author Steve Hall when he says, "The truest form of love is how you behave toward someone, not how you feel about them." The coming weeks will be an important time for you to practice this principle with extra devotion—not just for the sake of the people you care about, but also for your own physical, mental, and spiritual health.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22): After fighting and killing each other for years on end, the Roman and Persian armies agreed to a truce in AD 532. The treaty was optimistically called "The Endless Peace." Sadly, "endless" turned out to be just eight years. By 540, hostilities resumed. I'm happy to announce, though, that your prospects for accord and rapprochement are much brighter. If you work diligently to negotiate an endless peace anytime between now and March 15, it really is likely to last a long time.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 22): "I shiver, thinking how easy it is to be totally wrong about people, to see one tiny part of them and confuse it for the whole." Author Lauren Oliver wrote that, and now I'm offering it to you, just in time for your Season of Correction and Adjustment. The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to get smarter about evaluating your allies—and maybe even one of your adversaries, as well. I expect you will find it relatively easy, even pleasurable, to overcome your misimpressions and deepen your incomplete understandings.

LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22): In June 1942, the US Navy crushed Japanese naval forces at the Battle of Midway. It was a turning point that was crucial to America's ultimate victory over Japan in World War II. One military historian called it "the most stunning and decisive blow in the history of naval warfare." This milestone occurred just six months after Japan's devastating attack on US forces at Pearl Harbor. To compare your life to these two events may be bombastic, but I'm in a bombastic mood as I contemplate your exciting possibilities. I predict that in the second half of 2016, you'll claim a victory that will make up for a loss or defeat you endured during the last few months of 2015. And right now is when you can lay the groundwork for that future triumph.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Playwright Edmond Rostand (1868-1918) had a lot of friends, and they often came to visit him uninvited. He found it hard to simply tell them to go away and leave him alone. And yet he hated to be interrupted while he was working. His solution was to get naked and write for long hours while in his bathroom, usually soaking in the bathtub. His intrusive friends rarely had the nerve to insist on socializing. In this way, Rostand found the peace he needed to create his masterpiece *Cyrano de Bergerac*, as well as numerous other plays. I suggest you consider a comparable gambit, Scorpio. You need to carve out some quality alone time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): "I opened my mouth, almost said something. Almost. The rest of my life might have turned out differently if I had. But I didn't." The preceding reminiscence belongs to a character in Khaled Hosseini's novel *The Kite Runner*. I bring it up in hopes that you will do the opposite: Say the words that need to be said. Articulate what you're burning to reveal. Speak the truths that will send your life on a course that's in closer alignment with your pure intentions.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): According to some traditional astrologers, you Capricorns are vigilant to avoid loss. To ensure that you will never run out of what you need, you may even ration your output and limit your self-expression. This behavior is rooted in the belief that you should conserve your strength by withholding or even hiding your power. While there may be big grains of truth in this conventional view of you Capricorns, I think it's only part of the story. In the coming weeks, for instance, I bet you will wield your clout with unabashed authority. You won't save yourself for later; you'll engage in no strategic self-suppression. Instead, you will be expansive and unbridled as you do whatever's required to carry out the important foundation work that needs to be done.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): "It seems that the whole time you're living this life, you're thinking about a different one instead," wrote Latvian novelist Inga Abele in her novel *High Tide*. The good news is that the coming months will bring you excellent opportunities to graduate forever from this habit. Not all at once, but gradually and incrementally, you can shed the idea that you should be doing something other than what you're doing. You can get the hang of what it's like to thoroughly accept and embrace the life you are actually living. And now is an excellent time to get started in earnest on this project.

PISCES (Feb 19-March 20): "Even nightingales can't be fed on fairy tales," says a character in Ivan Turgenev's novel *Fathers and Sons*. In other words, these marvelous birds, which sing sublimely and have long been invoked by poets to symbolize lyrical beauty, need actual physical sustenance. They can't eat dreamy stories. Having acknowledged that practical fact, however, I will suggest that right now you require dreamy stories and rambling fantasies and imaginary explorations almost as much as you need your daily bread. Your soul's hunger has reached epic proportions. It's time to gorge. ■



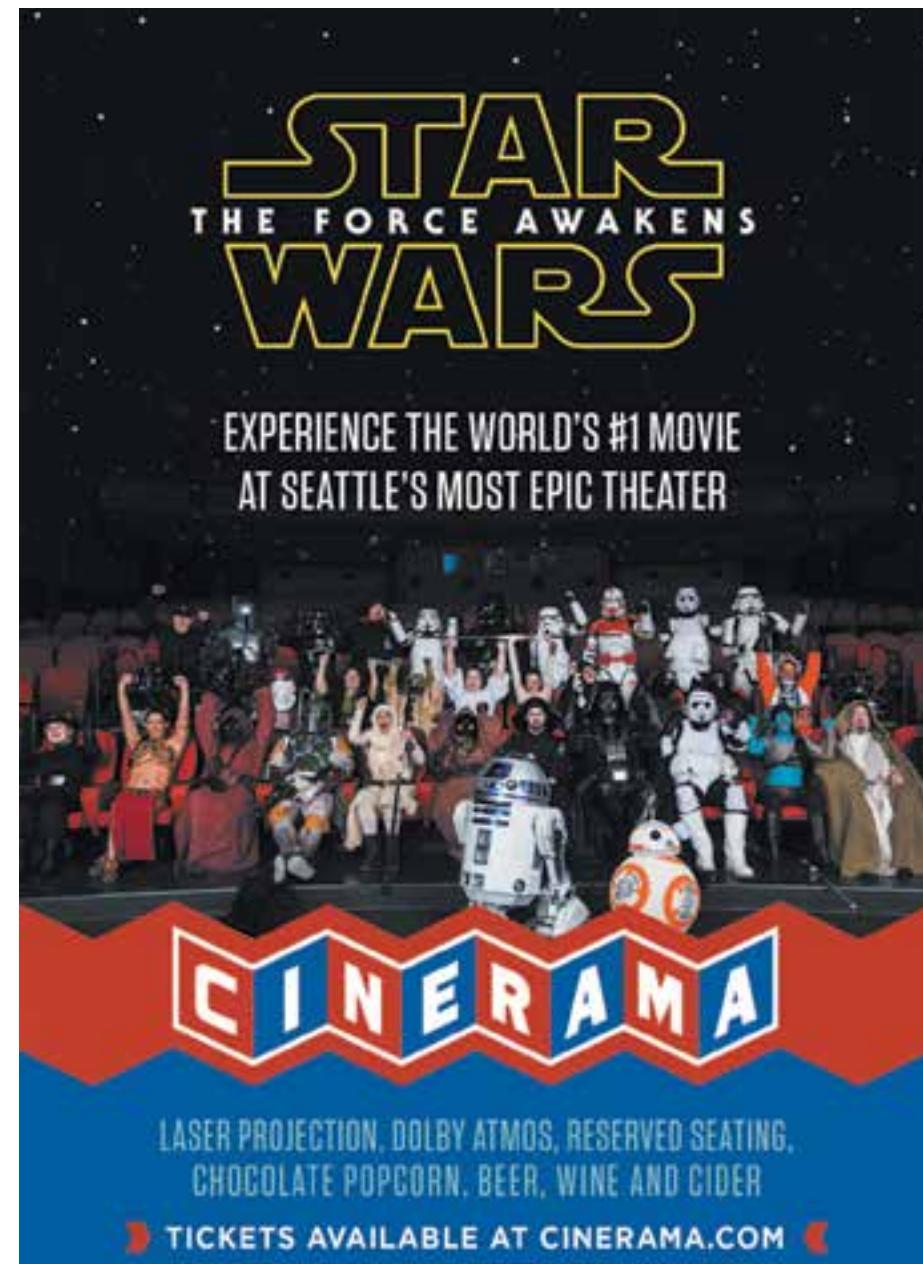
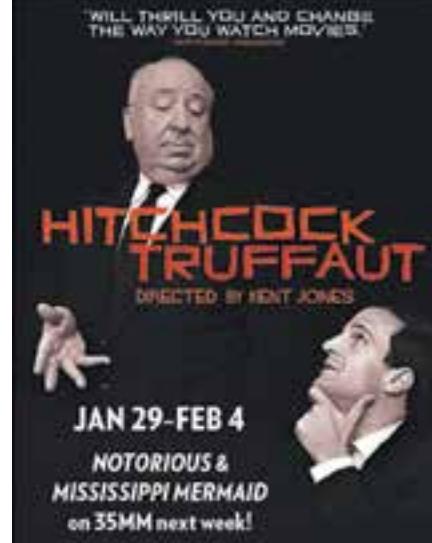
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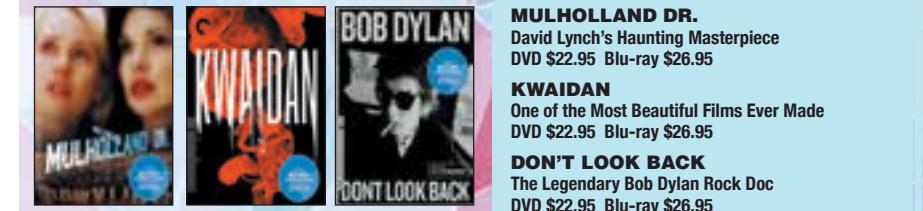
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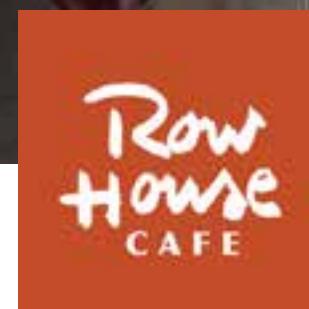


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CAFFE VITA You want your tips to support drag queens? Then get your coffee at Vita.

A Guide to Coffee Shops Based on the Baristas You Will Be Supporting

BY RICH SMITH

If you're new here, you're going to need to find your local coffee shop pretty soon. Tons of factors go into this decision, such as location, coffee excellence, efficiency number of outlets, and wi-fi generosity. But have you considered the fact that your daily nonfat latte in some ways helps to sustain the bodies and minds of young artists, and that you might include "artistic genre" among your java-joint heuristic? Me neither. But with that thought in mind, I checked out a number of cafes around town in search of little beehives of artistic activity. Here's what I found. Consider one of these places next time you need your fix, and be sure to tip.



Caffe Vita: Drag Queens
1005 E Pike St, 709-4440

There are a bunch of Caffe Vitas around town—but to my knowledge, only the one on Capitol Hill sports three young drag queens behind the counter: Reese Umbaugh (Cookie Couture), Eamon Maxwell (Miss America), and Derrick Jefferies (Khloe5X). They

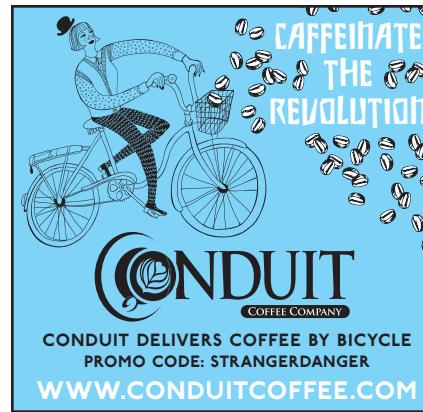
perform drag independently and sometimes as a group called Halfway Haus.

I sat down with Umbaugh recently and asked him how it all began. "I started it," he said. Back in March of last year, he convinced Maxwell and Jefferies to go out in drag for his birthday. They had a great time. Then Umbaugh heard about Arthaus, a drag battle royale at Kremwerk, and proposed that the trio put together a show. They did it, and ended up winning the first two rounds of the three-round event.

Umbaugh says working at Vita supports his art-making from both a creative and a financial perspective. Sometimes regulars will hire

him to perform for events they're putting on, and coworkers—the majority of whom are also working artists, according to Umbaugh—try to find ways to swap shifts or help out whenever work schedules conflict with art schedules.

The Arthaus finals at Kremwerk are happening June 4. Halfway Haus will be lip-synching it out with the best of 'em. Go to that. ▶



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Analog Coffee: Comics

235 Summit Ave E

One of the better cold brews in town is served up in a little 12-ounce tulip-shaped glass at Analog Coffee. Maybe it's the Herkimer Coffee they use. (I do like that Herk.) Maybe it's the particular kind of ragged, square ice that they use. Maybe it's that funny little glass. I don't know, but it's magical. Also magical is the number of local contemporary comic books they've got on the communal table up front.

I called barista Aidan Fitzgerald to see how Analog Coffee became a kind of informal local comics newsstand that also serves a fine cuppa joe. Fitzgerald said that a regular of theirs, a film critic and comics-head, start-

makes it the oldest coffee shop at the University of Washington. Students run the place with support from the campus's Housing and Food Services administration, and half the profits go to the School of Art scholarship program.

Joseph Maurey, the coffee roasting and training manager for UW dining, says that most of the baristas are undergrads at the art school. There's a tip jar, but all the money goes to the scholarship program. There's always a bunch of art-school kids hanging around and doing work, taking a moment every so often to look at all the student artwork hanging on the walls.

The Station: Hip Hop, R&B, Dance

2533 16th Ave S, 453-4892

Luis Rodriguez owns this Beacon Hill shop, where hip hop pounds out of the speakers. Local artists sell their mixtapes, concert tickets, shirts, and visual art at the shop, and the Mexican mocha will make you rethink your position on mochas.

Local rapper Matt "Spekulation" Watson, a barista at the Station, said a bunch of artists also work there, including DJ WD4D and R&B singer JusMoni. Watson calls the cafe "a net positive for [his] art, even if it weren't for the money," pointing to the creative energy between patrons, many of whom are also artists, and workers.

"Shops like this pop up every five years, but they go away—like Sit & Spin back in the day," Watson said. "It would be cool if there was a way to scale up this business model and make it more sustainable. When I'm hearing [Seattle City Council member] Kshama [Sawant] talk about small business rent control—for a place like this, that would be incredible." Hear, hear.

Cafe Racer: Cartoonists

5828 Roosevelt Way NE, 523-5282

Cafe Racer has served as one of the north side's artistic hubs for a long time now. The coffee's not that great, but the beer works, and every third Tuesday a large group of cartoonists meet there to construct *Dune*. Lots of people show up and draw something on one page, and the next month the participants get a zine with all the drawings in it. It's totally democratic art-making on a large scale, y'all. ■

Ansel Herz contributed reporting.

EATER'S DIGEST

TAKE SHELTER FROM THE SEATTLE GLOOM AT JACK'S BBQ

Winter in Seattle makes me want to drink. I know I'm not alone in this—the interminable darkness, rain, and gloom gets to many people. As I was driving home the other night, heading south on Airport Way—rain coming down in buckets, windshield wipers on full blast, shoulders scrunched up to my ears—I felt the very strong need for a drink. When I came upon the sign for Jack's BBQ (3924 Airport Way S), I found myself instinctively pulling into the parking lot.

A few months ago, on a much sunnier day, my husband and I had stopped in for an afternoon beer. I was intrigued by a smoked orange pale ale from Machine House Brewery, located just one mile south, made with oranges that are cured on-site in one of Jack's many smokers. The smoke flavor was subtle, as was the orange, but it was there, imparting an unmistakable bit of brightness and sweetness.

That afternoon, we each drank two pints and ordered the Texas Trinity platter to go: beef brisket, pork ribs, and jalapeño-cheddar sausages, along with sides of spicy, tangy remoulade coleslaw and "Texas

caviar," an earthy black-eyed-pea salad sweetened with diced bell peppers. Jack's brisket—soft, moist, smoky, and fatty—is incredible. The meat melts away on the tongue immediately. We sat in our dining room, all the windows open, and ate with our bare hands. The sun didn't set until well after 8 p.m.

On that more recent evening, I was disappointed to find that the smoked orange pale ale was no longer available. "It was kind of a summer thing," the bartender told me, as though I needed another reminder that summer is long gone. I ordered a beer anyway, sat on my red vinyl barstool, and looked around.

I was comforted by the fact that everyone in the bar, which was more than half full, was older than 35. They were all tearing meat with their hands, swigging beers, and talking very loudly. Everyone, regardless of where they're from, seems to inadvertently fall into a Southern accent at Jack's. The walls and tables, made of blond wood, gave off a golden light. It may not have been summer, but it certainly didn't feel like winter—and it certainly didn't feel like Seattle. I sipped my beer and felt my shoulders relax. **ANGELA GARBES**

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PERSON OF INTEREST



The Marquis Façade

burlesquer

The Marquis Façade, photographed at Cocktails & Couture—a night hosted by Seattle fashion designers Lovewell Couture and Jonquil & Mr Black.

BY KELLY O

"The devil costume was a custom-made union suit with a drop bottom and a drop front," says The Marquis Façade. "It was the first time I had modeled for Jordan Christianson, and he's been my personal couturier ever since. If there's been anything that I've worn in a performance that made someone jealous or say 'I want one!' Jordan probably made it. Oh, and the devil's horns were made by Brenda Bryan."

Jordan Christianson is the powerhouse behind clothing and accessory line Jonquil & Mr. Black. Brenda Bryan is the designer behind Lovewell Couture. The Marquis Façade will next collaborate with performer EmpeROAR Fabulous at Kremwerk to create a fashion house called the Château Fabuleux. Style heads, keep your eye on all these fashionable darlings.

The Marquis Façade will perform at Grotesque Gorelesque on February 2 at Substation, and on February 6 at Arthaus at Kremwerk. Also, check out the designers at jonquilandblack.com and lovewellcouture.com.

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